Law is a Bottomleſs Pit:

OR, THE

HISTORY

OF

JOHN BULL.

PUBLISHED

FROM A MANUSCRIPT FOUND IN THE CABINET OF THE FAMOUS SIR H. POLESWORTH, IN THE YEAR 1712.

SECOND PART.

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THE PUBLISHER's

PREFACE.

THE world is much indebted to the famous ſir Humphrey Poleſworth *for his ingenious and impartial account of* John Bull's *lawſuit; yet there is juſt cauſe of complaint againſt him, in that he relates it only by parcels, and won't give us the whole work: This forces me, who am only the publiſher, to beſpeak the aſſiſtance of his friends and acquaintance to engage him to lay aſide that ſtingy humour, and gratify the curioſity of the publick at once. He pleads in excuſe, that they are only private memoirs, wrote for his own uſe, in a looſe ſtyle, to ſerve as a help to his ordinary converſation.* I repreſented to him the good reception the firſt*

* This excuſe of ſir *Humphrey* can only relate to the ſecond part, or ſequel of the hiſtory. See the preface to the firſt part.

first part had met with; that though calculated only for the meridian of Grub-*ſtreet, it was yet taken notice of by the better ſort; that the world was now ſufficiently acquainted with* John Bull, *and intereſted itſelf in his concerns. He anſwered, with a ſmile, that he had indeed ſome trifling things to impart, that concerned* John Bull's *relations and domeſtic affairs; if theſe would ſatisfy me, he gave me free leave to make uſe of them, becauſe they would ſerve to make the hiſtory of the law-ſuit more intelligible. When I had looked over the manuſcript, I found likewiſe ſome further account of the compoſition, which perhaps may not be unacceptable to ſuch as have read the former part.*

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THE

THE

HISTORY

OF

JOHN BULL.

CHAP. I.

The character of * John Bull's *mother.*

JOHN had a mother whom he loved and honoured extremely; a diſcreet, grave, ſober, good conditioned, cleanly old gentlewoman as ever lived; ſhe was none of your croſs-grained,

* The Church of *England.*

termagant, ſcolding jades, that one had as good be hanged as live in the houſe with, ſuch as are always cenſuring the conduct, and telling ſcandalous ſtories of their neighbours, extolling their own good qualities, and undervaluing thoſe of others. On the contrary, ſhe was of a meek ſpirit, and as ſhe was ſtrictly virtuous herſelf, ſo ſhe always put the beſt conſtruction upon the words and actions of her neighbours, except where they were irreconcileable to the rules of honeſty and decency. She was neither one of your preciſe *prudes*, nor one of your fantaſtical old *belles*, that dreſs themſelves like girls of fifteen: as ſhe neither wore a ruff, forehead cloth, nor high crowned hat, ſo ſhe had laid aſide feathers, flowers, and crimpt ribbons in her head-dreſs, furbelo-ſcarfs, and hooped-petticoats. She ſcorned to patch and paint, yet ſhe loved to keep her hands and her face clean. Though ſhe wore no flaunting laced ruffles, ſhe would not keep herſelf in a conſtant ſweat with greaſy flannel: though her hair was not ſtuck with jewels, ſhe was not aſhamed of a diamond croſs: ſhe

was

was not like ſome ladies, hung about with toys and trinkets, tweezer-caſes, pocket-glaſſes, and eſſence bottles; ſhe uſed only a gold watch and an almanack, to mark the hours and the holy-days.

Her furniture was neat and genteel, well fancied with a *bon gouſt*. As ſhe affected not the grandeur of a ſtate with a canopy, ſhe thought there was no offence in an elbow-chair; ſhe had laid aſide your carving, gilding, and japan work, as being too apt to gather dirt; but ſhe never could be prevailed upon to part with plain wainſcot and clean hangings. There are ſome ladies, that affect to ſmell a ſtink in every thing; they are always highly perfumed, and continually burning frankincenſe in their rooms; ſhe was above ſuch affectation, yet ſhe never would lay aſide the uſe of brooms and ſcrubbing-bruſhes, and ſcrupled not to lay her linen in freſh lavender.

She was no leſs genteel in her behaviour, well-bred, without affectation, in the

the due mean between one of your affected curt'ſying pieces of formality, and your romps that have no regard to the common rules of civility. There are ſome ladies, that affect a mighty regard for their relations; *We muſt not eat to-day, for my uncle* Tom, *or my couſin* Betty, *died this time ten years: Let's have a ball to-night, it is my neighbour ſuch-a-one's birth-day;* ſhe looked upon all this as grimace; yet ſhe conſtantly obſerved her huſband's birth-day, her wedding-day, and ſome few more.

Though ſhe was a truly good woman, and had a ſincere motherly love for her ſon *John*, yet there wanted not thoſe who endeavoured to create a miſunderſtanding between them, and they had ſo far prevailed with him once, that he turned her out of doors,* to his great ſorrow, as he found afterwards, for his affairs went on at ſixes and ſevens.

She was no leſs judicious in the turn of her converſation and choice of her ſtudies, in which ſhe far exceeded all her

* In the Rebellion of 1641.

her ſex: your rakes that hate the company of all ſober, grave gentlewomen, would bear hers; and ſhe would, by her handſome manner of proceeding, ſooner reclaim them than ſome that were more ſour and reſerved: ſhe was a zealous preacher up of chaſtity, and *conjugal fidelity* in wives, and by no means a friend to the new-fangled doctrine of the *indiſpenſable duty of cuckoldom*: though ſhe advanced her opinions with a becoming aſſurance, yet ſhe never uſhered them in, as ſome poſitive creatures will do, with dogmatical aſſertions, *This is infallible; I cannot be miſtaken; None but a rogue can deny it.* It has been obſerved, that ſuch people are oftner in the wrong than any body.

Though ſhe had a thouſand good qualities, ſhe was not without her faults, amongſt which one might perhaps reckon too great lenity to her ſervants, to whom ſhe always gave good counſel, but often too gentle correction. I thought I could not ſay leſs of *John Bull*'s mother, becauſe ſhe bears a part in the following tranſactions.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The character of John Bull's * *ſiſter* Peg, *with the quarrels that happened between maſter and miſs in their childhood.*

JOHN had a ſiſter, a poor girl that had been ſtarved at nurſe; any body would have gueſſed miſs to have been bred up under the influence of a cruel ſtep-dame, and *John* to be the fondling of a tender mother. *John* looked ruddy and plump, with a pair of cheeks like a trumpeter; miſs looked pale and wan, as if ſhe had the green ſickneſs; and no wonder, for *John* was the darling, he had all the good bits, was crammed with good pullet, chicken, pig, gooſe, and capon, while miſs had only a little oatmeal and water, or a dry cruſt without butter. *John* had his golden pippins, peaches, and nectarines; poor miſs a crab-apple, ſloe, or a blackberry. Maſter lay in the beſt apartment, with his bed-chamber towards the ſouth ſun. Miſs lodged in a garret, expoſed to the north

* The nation and Church of *Scotland*.

north wind, which ſhrivelled her countenance; however, this uſage, though it ſtunted the girl in her growth, gave her a hardy conſtitution; ſhe had life and ſpirit in abundance, and knew when ſhe was ill uſed: now and then ſhe would ſeize upon *John*'s commons, ſnatch a leg of a pullet, or a bit of good beef, for which they were ſure to go to fiſty cuffs. Maſter was indeed too ſtrong for her; but miſs would not yield in the leaſt point, but even when maſter had got her down, ſhe would ſcratch and bite like a tyger; when he gave her a cuff on the ear, ſhe would prick him with her knitting-needle. *John* brought a great chain one day to tye her to the bed-poſt, for which affront, miſs aimed a pen-knife at his heart.* In ſhort, theſe quarrels grew up to rooted averſions; they gave one another nick-names: ſhe called him *Gundy-guts*, and he called her *louſy Peg*; though the girl was a tight clever wench as

* *Henry* VIII. to unite the two kingdoms under one ſovereign offered his daughter *Mary* to *James* V. of *Scotland*; this offer was rejected, and followed by a war: to this event probably the author alludes.

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as any was, and thro' her pale looks you might diſcern ſpirit and vivacity, which made her not, indeed, a perfect beauty, but ſomething that was agreeable. It was barbarous in parents not to take notice of theſe early quarrels, and make them live better together, ſuch domeſtick feuds proving afterwards the occaſion of misfortunes to them both. *Peg* had, indeed, ſome odd humours, and comical antipathy, for which, *John* would jeer her. "What think you of "my ſiſter *Peg* (ſays he) that faints at "the ſound of an organ, and yet will "dance and friſk at the noiſe of a bag-"pipe?" "What's that to you, *Gundy-"guts*, (quoth *Peg*) every body's to "chuſe their own muſick." Then *Peg* had taken a fancy not to ſay her *Paternoſter*, which made people imagine ſtrange things of her. Of the three brothers, that have made ſuch a clutter in the world, lord *Peter*, *Martin* and *Jack*, * *Jack* had of late been her inclinations: lord *Peter* ſhe deteſted: nor did *Martin* ſtand much better in her good graces, but *Jack* had found the way

* Love of Preſbytery.

has forced them to mortgage their beſt manors: it is credibly reported, that the butchers' and bakers' bill of a lord *Strutt*, that lived two hundred years ago, are not yet paid.

When *Philip Baboon* came firſt to the poſſeſſion of the lord *Strutt*'s eſtate, his tradeſmen, as is uſual upon ſuch occaſions, waited upon him to wiſh him joy and beſpeak his cuſtom: the two chief were * *John Bull* the clothier, and † *Nic. Frog* the linen-draper: They told him, that the *Bulls* and *Frogs* had ſerved the lord *Strutts* with drapery-ware for many years, that they were honeſt and fair dealers; that their bills had never been queſtion'd; that the lord *Strutts* lived generouſly, and never uſed to dirty their fingers with pen, ink, and counters; that his lordſhip might depend upon their honeſty; that they would uſe him as kindly, as they had done his predeceſſors. The young lord ſeemed to take all in good part, and diſmiſſed them with a deal of

* the *Engliſh* and

† the *Dutch* congratulated *Philip* upon a ſucceſſion, which they were not able to prevent: but to diſappoint the ambition of

ſeeming content, aſſuring them he did not intend to change any of the honourable maxims of his predeceſſors.

CHAP. II.

How Bull *and* Frog *grew jealous, that the lord* Strutt *intended to give all his cuſtom to his grandfather* Lewis Baboon.*

IT happened unfortunately for the peace of our neighbourhood, that this young lord had an old cunning rogue, or (as the *Scots* call it) *a falſe loon*, of a grandfather, that one might juſtly call a *Jack of all trades*;† ſometimes you would ſee him behind his counter ſelling broad-cloth, ſometimes meaſuring linen; next day he would be dealing in mercery-ware; high heads, ribbons, gloves, fans, and lace, he underſtood

* *Lewis the* XIV, and hinder the *French* nation, whoſe
† *trade and character* are thus deſcribed, and whoſe king had a

derſtood to a nicety; *Charles Mather* could not bubble a young beau better with a toy; nay, he would deſcend even to the ſelling of tape, garters, and ſhoebuckles: when ſhop was ſhut up, he would go about the neighbourhood, and earn half a crown by teaching the young men and maids to dance. By theſe methods he had acquired immenſe riches, which he uſed to ſquander * away at back-ſword, quarter-ſtaff, and cudgel-play, in which he took great pleaſure, and challenged all the country. You will ſay it is no wonder if *Bull* and *Frog* ſhould be jealous of this fellow. "It is not impoſſible (ſays *Frog* "to *Bull*) but this old rogue will take "the management of the young lord's "buſineſs into his hands; beſides, the "raſcal has good ware, and will ſerve "him as cheap as any body. In that "caſe, I leave you to judge what muſt "become of us and our families; we "muſt ſtarve, or turn journeymen to old

* *ſtrong diſpoſition to war*, from becoming too potent, an alliance, was formed to "procure a reaſonable ſatis- "faction to the houſe of *Auſtria* for its pretenſions to the "*Spaniſh* ſucceſſion, and ſufficient

"old *Lewis Baboon*; therefore, neighbour, I hold it adviſeable, that we "write to young lord *Strutt* to know "the bottom of this matter."

CHAP. III.

A copy of Bull *and* Frog's *letter to lord* Strutt.

MY LORD,

I SUPPOSE your lordſhip knows, that the *Bulls* and the *Frogs* have ſerved the lord *Strutts* with all ſorts of drapery-ware time out of mind: and whereas we are jealous, not without reaſon, that your lordſhip intends henceforth to buy of your grandfire old *Lewis Baboon*; this is to inform your lordſhip, that this proceeding does not ſuit with the circumſtances of our families, who have lived and made a good figure in the world by the generoſity of the lord *Strutts*. Therefore we think fit to acquaint

quaint your lordſhip, that you muſt find ſufficient *ſecurity* * to us, our heirs and aſſigns, that you will not employ *Lewis Baboon*; or elſe we will take our remedy at *law*, clap an action upon you of 20,000*l.* for old debts, ſeize and diſtrain your goods and chattels, which, conſidering your lordſhip's circumſtances, will plunge you into difficulties, from which it will not be eaſy to extricate yourſelf; therefore we hope, when your lordſhip has better conſidered on it, you will comply with the deſire of

Your loving friends,

JOHN BULL.
NIC. FROG.

Some of *Bull*'s friends adviſed him to take gentler methods with the young lord: but *John* naturally loved rough play. It is impoſſible to expreſs the ſurprize of the lord *Strutt* upon the receipt

* "*ſecurity* to *England* and *Holland* for their dominions, navigation, and commerce, and to prevent the union of the two monarchies *France* and *Spain*." To effect theſe purpoſes, queen *Ann* was by

ceipt of this letter; he was not flush in *ready* either to go to law, or clear old debts, neither could he find good bail: he offered to bring matters to a friendly accommodation; and promised upon his word of honour, that he would not change his drapers; but all to no purpose, for *Bull* and *Frog* saw clearly that old *Lewis* would have the cheating of him.

CHAP. IV.

How Bull *and* Frog *went to law with lord* Strutt *about the premises, and were join'd by the rest of the tradesmen.*

ALL endeavours of accommodation between lord *Strutt* and his drapers proved vain; jealousies increas'd, and indeed it was rumoured abroad, that lord *Strutt* had bespoke his new liveries of old *Lewis Baboon*. This coming to Mrs. *Bull*'s* ears, when *John Bull* came

* *the parliament* precipitated into the war as a principal. Among her allies were

came home, he found all his family in an uproar. Mrs. *Bull* you muſt know, was very apt to be cholerick. "You "ſot, (ſays ſhe,) you loiter about ale-"houſes and taverns, ſpend your time "at billiards, ninepins, or puppet-ſhows, "or flaunt about the ſtreets in your new "gilt chariot, never minding me nor "your numerous family. Don't you "hear how lord *Strutt* has beſpoke his "liveries at *Lewis Baboon*'s ſhop? Don't "you ſee how that old fox ſteals away "your cuſtomers, and turns you out of "your buſineſs every day, and you ſit "like an idle drone with your hands in "your pockets? Fie upon it! up man, "rouze thyſelf; I'll ſell to my ſhift, be-"fore I'll be ſo uſed by that knave." You muſt think Mrs. *Bull* had been pretty well tuned up by *Frog*, who chimed in with her learned harangue. No further delay now, but to council learned in the law they go, who unanimouſly aſſured them both of the juſtice and infallible ſucceſs of their law-ſuit.

I told you before, that old *Lewis Baboon* was a ſort of a *Jack of all trades*, which

which made the reſt of the tradeſmen jealous, as well as *Bull* and *Frog*; they hearing of the quarrel were glad of an opportunity of joining againſt old *Lewis Baboon*, provided that *Bull* and *Frog* would bear the charges of the ſuit; even lying *Ned*,* the chimney ſweeper of *Savoy*, and *Tom*† the *Portugal* duſtman, put in their claims; and the cauſe was put into the hands of * *Humphry Hocus* the attorney.

A declaration was drawn up to ſhew "That *Bull* and *Frog* had undoubted "right by preſcription to be drapers to "the lord *Strutts*; that there were ſev-"eral old contracts to that purpoſe; "that *Lewis Baboon* had taken up the "trade of clothier and draper, without "ſerving his time or purchaſing his "freedom; that he ſold goods, that "were not marketable, without the "ſtamp; that he himſelf was more fit "for a bully than a tradeſman, and went "about through all the country fairs "challenging

* the *Duke of Savoy*; and
† the *King of Portugal*; and
* *John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough* was appointed general in chief of the confederate army.

"challenging people to fight prizes, "wreſtling and cudgel-play;" and abundance more to this purpoſe.

CHAP. V.

The true characters of John Bull, Nic. Frog, *and* Hocus.

FOR the better underſtanding the following hiſtory, the reader ought to know, that *Bull*, in the main, was an honeſt plain-dealing fellow, cholerick, bold, and of a very unconſtant temper; he dreaded not old *Lewis* either at back-ſword, ſingle faulchion, or cudgel-play; but then he was very apt to quarrel with his beſt friends, eſpecially if they pretended to govern him: if you flattered him you might lead him like a child. *John*'s temper depended very much upon the air; his ſpirits roſe and fell with the weather-glaſs. *John* was quick, and underſtood his buſineſs very well; but no man alive was more careleſs in looking

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ing into his accounts, or more cheated by partners, apprentices, and ſervants. This was occaſioned by his being a boon companion, loving his bottle and his diverſion; for, to ſay truth, no man kept a better houſe than *John*, nor ſpent his money more generouſly. By plain and fair dealing, *John* had acquir'd ſome plumbs, and might have kept them, had it not been for his unhappy law-ſuit.

Nic. Frog was a cunning ſly whoreſon, quite the reverſe of *John* in many particulars; covetous, frugal; minded domeſtic affairs; would pinch his belly to ſave his pocket; never loſt a farthing by careleſs ſervants, or bad debtors. He did not care much for any ſort of diverſions, except tricks of *high german* artiſts, and *leger-de-main*: no man exceeded *Nic.* in theſe; yet it muſt be owned, that *Nic.* was a fair dealer, and in that way acquired immenſe riches.

Hocus was an old cunning attorney; and though this was the firſt conſiderable ſuit, that ever he was engaged in, he ſhewed himſelf ſuperior in addreſs to moſt

moſt of his profeſſion: he kept always good clerks, he loved money, was ſmooth-tongued, gave good words, and ſeldom loſt his temper: he was not worſe than an infidel, for he provided plentifully for his family; but he loved himſelf better than them all: the neighbours reported, that he was henpecked; which was impoſſible by ſuch a mild-ſpirited woman, as his wife was.

CHAP. VI.

Of the various ſucceſs of the law-ſuit.

LAW *is a bottomleſs pit; it is a cormorant, a harpy that devours every thing.* *John Bull* was flattered by the lawyers, that his ſuit would not laſt above a year or two at moſt; that before that time he would be in quiet poſſeſſion of his buſineſs: yet ten long years did *Hocus* ſteer his cauſe through all the *meanders* of the law, and all the courts. No ſkill, no addreſs was wanting;

ing; and, to ſay truth, *John* did not ſtarve his cauſe; there wanted not *yellow-boys* to fee counſel, hire witneſſes, and bribe juries: lord *Strutt* was generally caſt, never had one verdict in his favour;* and *John* was promiſed that the next, and the next, would be the final determination; but alas! that final determination and happy concluſion, was like an enchanted iſland, the nearer *John* came to it, the further it went from him: new trials upon new points ſtill aroſe; new doubts, new matters to be cleared; in ſhort, lawyers ſeldom part with ſo good a cauſe, till they have got the oyſter, and their clients the ſhell. *John*'s ready money, book-debts, bonds, mortgages, all went into the lawyer's pockets: then *John* began to borrow money upon *Bank-ſtock* and *Eaſt-India* bonds: now and then a farm went to pot. At laſt † it was thought a good expedient

* The war was carried on againſt *France* and *Spain* with great ſucceſs, and a peace might have been concluded upon the principles of the alliance; but a partition of the *Spaniſh* dominions in favour of the houſe of *Auſtria*, and an engagement that the ſame perſon ſhould never be King of *France* and *Spain*, were not now thought ſufficient.

† It was inſiſted, that the will in favour of *Philip*, was contrary

pedient to ſet up eſquire *South*'s title, to prove the *will forg'd*, and diſpoſſeſs *Philip* lord *Strutt* at once. Here again was a new field for the lawyers, and the cauſe grew more intricate than ever. *John* grew madder and madder; whereever he met any of lord *Strutt*'s ſervants, he tore off their cloaths: now and then you would ſee them come home naked, without ſhoes, ſtockings, and linen. As for old *Lewis Baboon*, he was reduced to his laſt ſhift, though he had as many as any other: his children were reduced from rich ſilks to *Doily* ſtuffs, his ſervants in rags, and barefooted; inſtead of good victuals, they now lived upon neck-beef, and bullock's liver: in ſhort, nobody got much by the matter, but the men of law.

contrary to treaty; and there was a parliamentary declaration for continuing the war, till he ſhould be dethroned.

CHAP. VII.

How John Bull *was ſo mightily pleaſed with his ſucceſs, that he was going to leave off his trade, and turn lawyer.*

IT is wiſely obſerved by a great philoſopher, that habit is a ſecond nature: this was verified in the caſe of *John Bull*, who, from an honeſt and plain tradeſman, had got ſuch a haunt about the courts of juſtice, and ſuch a jargon of law-words, that he concluded himſelf as able a lawyer as any that pleaded at the bar, or ſat on the bench: He was overheard one day talking to himſelf after this manner. "* How ca-
"priciouſly does fate or chance diſpoſe
"of mankind? How ſeldom is that bu-
"ſineſs allotted to a man, for which he
"is fitted by nature? It is plain, I was
"intended for a man of law: how did
"my guardians miſtake my genius in
"placing me, like a mean ſlave, behind
"a counter? Bleſs me! what immenſe
"eſtates

* The manners and ſentiments of the nation became extravagant and chimerical.

"eſtates theſe fellows raiſe by the law? "Beſides, it is the profeſſion of a gen- "tleman. What a pleaſure is it to be "victorious in a cauſe? to ſwagger at "the bar? What a fool am I to drudge "any more in this woollen trade? for "a lawyer I was born, and a lawyer I "will be; one is never too old to "learn." All this while *John* had conned over ſuch a catalogue of hard words, as were enough to conjure up the devil; theſe he uſed to babble indifferently in all companies, eſpecially at coffee-houſes; ſo that his neighbour tradeſmen began to ſhun his company as a man that was cracked. Inſtead of the affairs at *Blackwell-hall*, and price of broad-cloth, wool and baizes, he talks of nothing but *actions upon the caſe*, *returns*, *capias*, *alias capias*, *demurrers*, *venire facias*, *replevins*, *ſuperſedeas's*, *certiorari's*, *writs of error*, *actions of trover and converſion*, *treſpaſſes*, *precipe's and dedimus*. This was matter of jeſt to the learned in law; however, *Hocus*, and the reſt of the tribe, encouraged *John* in his fancy, aſſuring him that he had a great genius for law; that they queſtion'd not, but

but in time he might raiſe money enough by it to reimburſe him all his charges; that if he ſtudied, he would undoubtedly arrive to the dignity of a lord chief juſtice :* as for the advice of honeſt friends and neighbours, *John* deſpiſed it; he looked upon them as fellows of a low genius, poor grovelling mechanicks; *John* reckoned it more honour to have got one favourable verdict, than to have ſold a bale of broad-cloth. As for *Nic. Frog*, to ſay the truth, he was more prudent; for though he followed his law-ſuit cloſely, he neglected not his ordinary buſineſs, but was both in court, and in his ſhop at the proper hours.

CHAP. VIII.

How John *diſcovered, that* Hocus *had an intrigue with his wife; and what followed thereupon.*

JOHN had not run on a madding ſo long, had it not been for an extravagant

* Hold the balance of power.

agant bitch of a wife, whom *Hocus* perceiving *John* to be fond of, was reſolved to win over to his ſide. It is a true ſaying, *That the laſt man of the pariſh, that knows of his cuckoldom, is himſelf.* It was obſerved by all the neighbourhood, that *Hocus* had dealings with *John*'s wife,* that were not ſo much for his honour; but this was perceived by *John* a little too late: ſhe was a luxurious jade, loved ſplendid equipages, plays, treats, and balls, differing very much from the ſober manners of her anceſtors, and by no means fit for a tradeſman's wife. *Hocus* fed her extravagancy (what was ſtill more ſhameful) with *John*'s own money. Every body ſaid, that *Hocus* had a month's mind to her body; be that as it will, it is matter of fact, that upon all occaſions ſhe run out extravagantly on the praiſe of *Hocus*. When *John* uſed to be finding fault with his bills, ſhe uſed to reproach him as ungrateful to his greateſt benefactor; one that had taken ſo much pains in his law-ſuit, and retriev

* And it was believed, that the general tampered with the parliament.

ed his family from the oppreſſion of old *Lewis Baboon*. A good ſwingeing ſum of *John*'s readieſt caſh went towards building of *Hocus's country houſe*.* This affair between *Hocus* and Mrs. *Bull* was now ſo open, that all the world were ſcandalized at it; *John* was not ſo clod-pated, but at laſt he took the hint. † The parſon of the pariſh preaching one day with more zeal than ſenſe againſt adultery,‡ Mrs. *Bull* told her huſband, that he was a very uncivil fellow to uſe ſuch coarſe language before people of condition; that *Hocus* was of the ſame mind; and that they would join to have him turned out of his living for uſing perſonal reflections. How do you mean, ſays *John*, by perſonal reflections? I hope in God, wife, he did not reflect upon you?

* who ſettled upon him the manor of *Woodſtock*, and afterwards entailed that, with 5000*l. per annum*, payable out of the Poſt-Office, to deſcend with his honours; over and above this, an immenſe ſum was expended in building *Blenheim Houſe*. About this time (*Nov.* 6, 1709.)

† Dr. *Henry Sacheverel* preached a ſermon againſt popular reſiſtance of regal authority.

‡ The Houſe of Commons voted this ſermon a libel on her majeſty and her government, the revolution, the proteſtant ſucceſſion, and the parliament; they impeached him of high crimes and miſdemeanors; he was ſilenced for three years, and the ſermon burnt by the hangman.

you? "No, thank God, my reputation "is too well eſtabliſhed in the world to "receive any hurt from ſuch a foul-"mouthed ſcoundrel as he; his doc-"trine tends only to make huſbands ty-"rants, and wives ſlaves: Muſt we be "ſhut up and huſbands left to their lib-"erty? Very pretty indeed! a wife "muſt never go abroad with a Platon-"ick to ſee a play or a ball; ſhe muſt "never ſtir without her huſband; nor "walk in *Spring-garden* with a couſin. "I do ſay, huſband, and I will ſtand by "it, that without the innocent freedoms "of life, matrimony would be a moſt "intolerable ſtate; and that a wife's "virtue ought to be the reſult of her "own reaſon, and not of her huſband's "government; for my part, I would "ſcorn a huſband that would be jealous "if he ſaw a fellow a-bed with me."* All this while *John*'s blood boiled in his veins; he was now confirmed in all his ſuſpicions; jade, bitch, and whore were the beſt words, that *John* gave her.† Things went from better to worſe,

* Theſe proceedings cauſed a great ferment in the nation.

† The houſe complained of being *aſperſed* and *vilified*; opprobrious

worſe, till Mrs. *Bull* aimed a *knife at *John*, though *John* threw a bottle† at her head very brutally indeed :‡ and after this, there was nothing but confuſion : bottles, glaſſes, ſpoons, plates, knives, forks and diſhes flew about like duſt ; the reſult of which was, that § Mrs. *Bull* received a bruiſe in her right ſide, of which ſhe died half a year after. The bruiſe impoſthumated, and afterwards turned to a ſtinking ulcer, which made every body ſhy to come near her ; yet ſhe wanted not the help of many able phyſicians, who attended very diligently, and did what men of ſkill could do : but all to no purpoſe, for her condition was now quite deſperate, all regular phyſicians, and her neareſt relations, having given her over.

CHAP.

opprobrious terms were uſed by both parties, and one had recourſe to

* *military power*, becauſe it was aſſaulted by the other with

† *tumult* and *riot*.

‡ The confuſion every day encreaſed : the whig or low church party in the houſe of commons began to decline ; after much contention and debate

§ the parliament was prorogued,

CHAP. IX.

How ſome quacks undertook to cure Mrs. Bull *of her ulcer.**

THERE is nothing ſo impoſſible in nature, but mountebanks will undertake; nothing ſo incredible, but they will affirm: Mrs. *Bull*'s condition was looked upon as deſperate by all the men of art; but there were thoſe, that bragged they had an infallible ointment and plaiſter, which being applied to the ſore, would cure it in a few days; at the ſame time they would give her a pill, that would purge off all her bad humours, ſweeten her blood, and rectify her diſturbed imagination. In ſpite of all applications, the patient grew worſe every day; ſhe ſtunk ſo, no body durſt come within a ſtone's throw of her, except thoſe quacks who attended her cloſe, and apprehended no danger. If one aſked them, how Mrs. *Bull* did? Better and better, ſaid they; the parts heal,

* and notwithſtanding many attempts to prolong it, particularly ſome difficulties ſtarted by the Lord

heal, and her conſtitution mends; if ſhe ſubmits to our government, ſhe will be abroad in a little time. Nay, it is reported, that they wrote to her friends in the country, that ſhe ſhould dance a jigg next *October* in *Weſtminſter-Hall*, and that her illneſs had been chiefly owing to bad phyſicians. At laſt, *one of them was ſent for in great haſte, his patient grew worſe and worſe: when he came, he affirmed that it was a groſs miſtake, and that ſhe was never in a fairer way: bring hither the ſalve, ſays he, and give a plentiful draught of my cordial. As he was applying his ointments, and adminiſtering the cordial, the patient gave up the ghoſt, to the great confuſion of the quack, and the great joy of *Bull* and his friends. The quack flung away out of the houſe in great diſorder, and ſwore there was foul play, for he was ſure his medicines were infallible. Mrs. *Bull* having died without any ſigns of repentance or devotion, the clergy would hardly allow her a chriſtian burial. The relations had once reſolved to ſue *John* for the murder,

* Chancellor, it was diſſolved on the 21 *Sept.* 1710.

murder, but conſidering better of it, and that ſuch a trial would rip up old ſores, and diſcover things not ſo much to the reputation of the deceaſed, they dropt their deſign. She left no will, only there was found in her ſtrong box the following words wrote on a *Scrip* of paper, *My curſe on* John Bull, *and all my poſterity, if ever they come to any compoſition with the Lord* Strutt.

She left him three daughters, whoſe *names were *Polemia*, *Diſcordia*, and *Uſuria*.

CHAP. X.

Of John Bull's *ſecond wife, and the* †*good advice that ſhe gave him.*

JOHN quickly got the better of his grief and ſeing that neither his conſtitution, or the affairs of his family could

* War, faction, and uſury.

† The new parliament, which was averſe to the war, made

could permit him to live in an unmarried ſtate, he reſolved to get him another wife; a couſin of his laſt wife's was propoſed, but *John* would have no more of the breed: in ſhort, he wedded a ſober country gentlewoman, of a good family, and a plentiful fortune, the reverſe of the other in her temper; not but that ſhe loved money, for ſhe was ſaving, and applied her fortune to pay *John*'s clamorous debts, that the unfrugal methods of his laſt wife, and this ruinous law-ſuit, had brought him into. One day, as ſhe had got her huſband in a good humour, ſhe talked to him after the following manner. * "My dear, "ſince I have been your wife, I have "obſerved great abuſes and diſorders "in your family; your ſervants are "mutinous and quarrelſome, and cheat "you moſt abominably; your cook-"maid is in a combination with your "butcher, poulterer, and fiſhmonger: "your butler purloins your liquor, and "the brewer ſells you hogwaſh; your "baker

* a repreſentation of the miſmanagement in the ſeveral offices, particularly thoſe for victualling and cloathing the navy and army;

" baker cheats both in weight and in " tale ; even your milk-woman and " your nurſery-maid have a fellow-feel- " ing ; your taylor, inſtead of ſhreds, " cabbages whole yards of cloth ; be- " ſides, leaving ſuch long ſcores, and " not going to market with ready mon- " ey, forces us to take bad ware of the " tradeſman at their own price. You " have not poſted your books theſe ten " years ; how is it poſſible for a man of " buſineſs to keep his affairs even in " the world at this rate ? Pray God this " *Hocus* be honeſt : would to God you " would look over his bills, and ſee " how matters ſtand between *Frog* and " you :* prodigious ſums are ſpent in " this law-ſuit, and more muſt be bor " rowed of ſcriveners and uſurers at " heavy intereſt. Beſides, my dear, " let me beg of you to lay aſide that " wild project of leaving your buſineſs " to turn lawyer, for which, let me tell " you, nature never deſigned you. Be- " lieve me, theſe rogues do but flatter, " that they may pick your pocket ; ob- " ſerve what a parcel of hungry ragged

* and of the ſums that had been expended on the war,

"fellows live by your cauſe; to be ſure "they will never make an end of it; "I foreſee this haunt, you have got "about the courts, will one day or "other bring your family to beggary. "Conſider, my dear, how indecent it "is to abandon your ſhop, and follow "pettifoggers; the habit is ſo ſtrong "upon you, that there is hardly a plea "between two country eſquires about "a barren acre upon a common, but "you draw yourſelf in as bail, ſurety "or ſolicitor."* *John* heard her all this while with patience, till ſhe pricked his maggot, and touched him in the tender point; then he broke out into a violent paſſion, "What, I not fit for a lawyer! "let me tell you, my clodpated rela- "tions ſpoiled the greateſt genius in "the world, when they bred me a "mechanick. Lord *Strutt*, and his old "rogue of a grandſire, have found to "their coſt, that I can manage a law- "ſuit as well as another." "I don't "deny what you ſay, replied Mrs. *Bull*, "nor do I call in queſtion your parts; "but, I ſay, it does not ſuit with your "cumſtances:

* which was however ſtill a favourite with the people,

"cumſtances: you and your prede-
"ceſſors have lived in good reputation
"among your neighbours by this ſame
"cloathing-trade, and it were madneſs
"to leave it off. Beſides, there are
"few that know all the tricks and
"cheats of theſe lawyers; does not
"your own experience teach you, how
"they have drawn you on from one
"term to another, and how you have
"danced the round of all the courts,
"ſtill flattering you with a final iſſue,
"and, for aught I can ſee, your cauſe
"is not a bit clearer than it was ſeven
"years ago." "I will be damn'd, ſays
"*John*, if I accept of any compoſition
"from *Strutt* or his grandfather; I'll
"rather wheel about the ſtreets an en-
"gine to grind knives and ſciſſars;
"however, I'll take your advice, and
"look over my accompts."

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CHAP. XI.

How John *looked over his attorney's bill.*

WHEN *John* firſt brought out the bills, the ſurprize of all the family was unexpreſſible at the prodigious dimenſions of them; they would have meaſured with the beſt bale of cloth in *John*'s ſhop. Fees to judges, puny judges, clerks, prothonotaries, philizers, chirographers, under-clerks, proclamators, council, witneſſes, jurymen, marſhals, tipſtaffs, cryers, porters; for enrollings, exemplifications, bails, vouchers, returns, caveats; examinations, filings of writs, entries, declarations, replications, recordats, *noli profequi's*, *certiorari's*, *mittimus's*, demurrers, ſpecial verdicts, informations, *ſcire facias*, *ſuperſedeas*, *habeas corpus*, coach-hire, treating of witneſſes, *&c.* "Verily, ſays *John*, there are a prodigious "number of learned words in this law; "what a pretty ſcience it is!" "Ay! "but huſband, you have paid for every "ſyllable and letter of theſe fine words; "bleſs

"bleſs me, what immenſe ſums are at "the bottom of the accompt!" *John* ſpent ſeveral weeks in looking over his bills, and by comparing and ſtating his accompts he diſcovered, that, beſides the extravagance of every article, he had been egregiouſly cheated; that he had paid for council that were never fee'd, for writs that were never drawn, for dinners that were never dreſſed, and journeys that were never made: In ſhort, that the tradeſmen, lawyers, and *Frog*, had agreed to throw the burden of the law-ſuit upon his ſhoulders.

CHAP. XII.

How John *grew angry, and reſolved to accept a compoſition;* and what methods were practiſed by the lawyers for keeping him from it.*

WELL might the learned *Daniel Burgeſs* ſay, *that a law-ſuit is a*

* when at length peace was thought to be eligible upon more moderate terms, a treaty was entered into by,

ſuit for life. He that ſows his grain upon marble, will have many a hungry belly before harveſt. This *John* felt by woeful experience. *John*'s cauſe was a good milch cow, and many a man ſubſiſted his family out of it. However *John* began to think it high time to look about him. He had a couſin in the country, one Sir **Roger Bold*, whoſe predeceſſors had been bred up to the law, and knew as much of it as any body; but having left off the profeſſion for ſome time, they took great pleaſure in compounding law-ſuits among their neighbours, for which they were the averſion of the gentlemen of the long robe, and at perpetual war with all the country attorneys. *John* put his cauſe in Sir *Roger*'s hands, deſiring him to make the beſt of it: the news had no ſooner reached the ears of the lawyers, but they were all in an uproar. They brought all the reſt of the tradeſmen upon *John*: † 'Squire *South*

† *Robert Harley*, afterward Earl of *Oxford*, who was made treaſurer inſtead of the Lord *Godolphin*, and there was now not only a new parliament, but a new miniſtry.

* the meaſure was oppoſed by the allies and the general:

South ſwore he was betrayed, that he would ſtarve before he compounded; *Frog* ſaid he was highly wronged; even lying *Ned* the chimney-ſweeper, and *Tom* the duſtman complained, that their intereſt was ſacrificed. The lawyers, ſolicitors, *Hocus*, and his clerks, were all up in arms, at the news of the compoſition;* they abuſed him and his wife moſt ſhamefully. "You ſilly, "aukward, ill-bred, country-ſow, (quoth "one) have you no more manners than "to rail at *Hocus*, that has ſaved that "clod-pated numſkull'd ninny-hammer "of yours from ruin, and all his fam-"ily? It is well known, how he has "roſe early and ſat up late to make "him eaſy, when he was ſotting at ev-"ery ale-houſe in town. I knew his "laſt wife; ſhe was a woman of breed-"ing, good humour and complaiſance; "knew how to live in the world: as "for you, you look like a puppet "moved by clock-work; your cloaths "hang upon you, as though they were "upon tenter-hooks, and you come "into

* the houſe of commons was cenſured as totally ignorant of buſineſs;

"into a room as if you were going to "ſteal away a piſs-pot: get you gone "into the country to look after your "mother's poultry, to milk the cows, "churn the butter, and dreſs up noſe-"gays for a holyday, and not meddle "with matters, which you know no "more of, than the ſign-poſt before "your door: it is well known, that "*Hocus* had an eſtabliſhed reputation; "he never ſwore an oath, nor told a "lie in all his life; he is grateful to "his benefactors faithful to his friends, "liberal to his dependants, and dutiful "to his ſuperiors; he values not your "money more than the duſt under his "feet, but he hates to be abuſed. "Once for all, Mrs. *Mynx*, leave off "talking of *Hocus*, or I will pull out "thoſe ſaucer eyes of yours, and make "that redſtreak country face look as "raw as an ox-cheek upon a butcher's "ſtall: remember, I ſay, that there "are pillories and ducking ſtools." With this, away they flung, leaving Mrs. *Bull* no time to reply. No ſtone was left unturned to fright *John* from his

his compoſition: * ſometimes they ſpread reports at coffee-houſes, that *John* and his wife were run mad; that they intended to give up houſe, and make over all their eſtate to *Lewis Baboon*; that *John* had been often heard talking to himſelf, and ſeen in the ſtreets without ſhoes or ſtockings; that he did nothing from morning till night but beat his ſervants, after having been the beſt maſter alive: as for his wife, ſhe was a mere natural. Sometimes *John*'s houſe was beſet with a whole regiment of attorney's clerks, bailiffs and bailiffs-followers, and other ſmall retainers of the law, who threw ſtones at his windows, and dirt at himſelf, as he went along the ſtreet. When *John* complained of want of ready money to carry on his ſuit, they adviſed him to pawn his plate and jewels, and that Mrs. *Bull* ſhould ſell her linen and wearing-cloaths.

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* and it was ſaid, that the nation would at laſt be ſacrificed to the ambition of *France*.

CHAP. XIII.

Mrs. Bull's *vindication of the* indiſpenſable duty of cuckoldom, *incumbent upon wives in caſe of the tyranny, infidelity, or inſufficiency of huſbands: being a full anſwer to the* doctor's *ſermon againſt* adultery.*

JOHN found daily freſh proofs of the infidelity and bad deſigns of his deceaſed wife; amongſt other things, one day looking over his cabinet, he found the following paper.

IT is evident that matrimony is founded upon an *original contract*, whereby the wife makes over the right ſhe has by the law of nature to the *concubitus vagus*, in favour of the huſband; by which he acquires the property of all her poſterity. But then the obligation is mutual: and where the contract is broken on one ſide, it ceaſes to bind on the other. Where there is a right, there

*The tories' repreſentation of the ſpeeches at *Sacheverel's* trial.

there muſt be a power to maintain it, and to puniſh the offending party. This power I affirm to be that original right, or rather that indiſpenſable duty of cuckoldom, lodged in all wives in the caſes above-mentioned. No wife is bound by any law, to which herſelf has not conſented: all œconomical government is lodged originally in the huſband and wife, the executive part being in the huſband; both have their privileges ſecured to them by law and reaſon: but will any man infer from the huſband's being inveſted with the executive power, that the wife is deprived of her ſhare, and that which is the principal branch of it, the original right of cuckoldom? And that ſhe has no remedy left, but *preces et lachrymæ*, or an appeal to a ſupreme court of judicature? No leſs frivolous are the arguments, that are drawn from the general appellations and terms of huſband and wife. A huſband denotes ſeveral different ſorts of magiſtracy, according to the uſages and cuſtoms of different climates and countries. In ſome eaſtern nations it ſignifies a tyrant, with the abſolute power of life

life and death: in *Turkey* it denotes an arbitrary governor, with power of perpetual impriſonment: in *Italy* it gives the huſband the power of poiſon and padlocks: in the countries of *England*, *France*, and *Holland*, it has a quite different meaning, implying a free and equal government, ſecuring to the wife in certain caſes the liberty of cuckoldom, and the property of pin-money, and ſeparate maintenance. So that the arguments drawn from the terms of huſband and wife are fallacious, and by no means fit to ſupport a tyrannical doctrine, as that of abſolute unlimited chaſtity, and conjugal fidelity.

The general exhortations to chaſtity in wives are meant only for rules in ordinary caſes, but they naturally ſuppoſe three conditions of ability, juſtice, and fidelity in the huſband: ſuch an unlimited, unconditioned fidelity in the wife could never be ſuppoſed by reaſonable men; it ſeems a reflection upon the church, to charge her with doctrines that countenance oppreſſion.

This

This doctrine of the original right of cuckoldom, is congruous to the law of nature, which is ſuperior to all human laws, and for that I dare appeal to all wives: it is much to the honour of our *Engliſh* wives, that they have never given up that *fundamental point*; and that though in former ages they were muffled up in darkneſs and ſuperſtition, yet that notion ſeemed engraven on their minds, and the impreſſion ſo ſtrong, that nothing could impair it.

To aſſert the illegality of cuckoldom upon any pretence whatſoever, were to caſt odious colours upon the married ſtate, to blacken the neceſſary means of perpetuating families: ſuch laws can never be ſuppoſed to have been deſigned to defeat the very end of matrimony, the propagation of mankind. I call them neceſſary means; for in many caſes what other means are left? Such a doctrine wounds the honour of families, unſettles the titles to kingdoms, honours, and eſtates; for if the actions from which ſuch ſettlements ſpring were illegal, all that is built upon them muſt be

ſo too: but the laſt is abſurd, therefore the firſt muſt be ſo likewiſe. What is the cauſe that *Europe* groans at preſent under the heavy load of a cruel and expenſive war, but the tyrannical cuſtom of a certain nation, and the ſcrupulous nicety of a ſilly Queen,* in not exerciſing this indiſpenſable duty of cuckoldom, whereby the kingdom might have had an heir, and a controverted ſucceſſion might have been avoided? Theſe are the effects of the narrow maxims of your clergy, *That one muſt not do evil, that good may come of it.*

The aſſertors of this indefeaſible right, and *jus divinum* of matrimony, do all in their hearts favour gallants, and the pretenders to married women; for if the true legal foundation of the married ſtate be once ſapped, and inſtead thereof tyrannical maxims introduced, what muſt follow but elopements inſtead of ſecret and peaceable cuckoldom?

From all that has been ſaid, one may clearly

* The Queen of Charles II. of *Spain*, upon whoſe death without iſſue, the war broke out.

clearly perceive the abſurdity of the doctrine of this ſeditious, diſcontented, hot-headed, ungifted, unedifying preacher, aſſerting, *That the grand ſecurity of the matrimonial ſtate, and the pillar upon which it ſtands, is founded upon the wife's belief of an abſolute unconditional fidelity to the huſband's bed:* by which bold aſſertion he ſtrikes at the root, digs the foundation, and removes the baſis, upon which the happineſs of a married ſtate is built. As for his perſonal reflections, I would gladly know who are thoſe *wanton wives* he ſpeaks of? who are thoſe ladies of high ſtations, that he ſo boldly traduces in his ſermon? It is pretty plain, who theſe aſperſions are aimed at, for which he deſerves the pillory or ſomething worſe.

In confirmation of this doctrine of the indiſpenſable duty of cuckoldom, I could bring the example of the wiſeſt wives in all ages, who, by theſe means, have preſerved their huſband's families from ruin and oblivion by want of poſterity: but what has been ſaid, is a ſufficient

cient ground for puniſhing this pragmatical parſon.

CHAP. XIV.

The two great parties of wives, the *Devoto's *and the* Hitts.

THE doctrine of unlimited chaſtity and fidelity in wives was univerſally eſpouſed by all huſbands; who went about the country, and made the wives ſign papers, ſignifying their utter deteſtation and abhorrence of Mrs. *Bull*'s wicked doctrine of the indiſpenſable duty of cuckoldom. Some yielded, others refuſed to part with their native liberty; which gave riſe to two great parties amongſt the wives, the *Devoto's* and the *Hitts*. Though it muſt be owned, the diſtinction was more nominal than real; for the *Devoto's* would abuſe freedoms

* Thoſe who were for and againſt the doctrine of *non-reſiſtance*.

freedoms ſometimes; and thoſe who were diſtinguiſhed by the name of *Hitts*, were often very honeſt. At the ſame time there came out an ingenious treatiſe with the title of *Good advice to huſbands*; in which they are counſelled not to truſt too much to their wives owning the doctrine of unlimited conjugal fidelity, and ſo to neglect family duty, and a due watchfulneſs over the manners of their wives; that the greateſt ſecurity to huſbands was a vigorous conſtitution, good uſage of their wives, and keeping them from temptation; many huſbands having been ſufferers by their truſting too much to general profeſſions, as was exemplified in the caſe of a fooliſh and negligent huſband, who truſting to the efficacy of this principle, was undone by his wife's elopement from him.

CHAP. XV.

An Account of the conference between Mrs. Bull *and* Don Diego.

THE lawyers, as their laſt effort to put off the compoſition, ſent **Don Diego* to *John*. *Don Diego* was a very worthy gentleman, a friend to *John*, his mother, and preſent wife; and therefore ſuppoſed to have ſome influence over her: he had been ill uſed himſelf by *John*'s lawyers, but, becauſe of ſome † animoſity to ſir *Roger*, was againſt the compoſition: ‡ the conference between him and Mrs. *Bull* was word for word as follows.

Don Diego. Is it poſſible, couſin *Bull*, that you can forget the honourable

* Amongſt other obſtacles to the treaty was the oppoſition of the Earl of *Nottingham*, a tory nobleman, who had great influence in the houſe of commons.

† The cauſe of his animoſity, from which this conduct is ſuppoſed to proceed, was Mr. *Harley*'s being choſen to ſucceed him as principal ſecretary of ſtate, when he was removed from that office in the year 1704.

‡ He expoſtulated againſt the peace with great warmth in the houſe, when the queen was preſent *incog.*

ble maxims of the family you are come of, and break your word with three of the honeſteſt beſt-meaning perſons in the world, eſquire *South*, *Frog*, and *Hocus*, that have ſacrificed their intereſt to yours? It is baſe to take advantage of their ſimplicity and credulity, and leave them in the lurch at laſt.

Mrs. *Bull.* I am ſure they have left my family in a bad condition, we have hardly money to go to market; and nobody will take our words for ſixpence. A very fine ſpark this eſquire *South!* My huſband took him in, a dirty, ſnotty-noſed boy; it was the buſineſs of half the ſervants to attend him, * the rogue did bawl and make ſuch a noiſe: ſometimes he fell in the fire, and burnt his face, ſometimes broke his ſhins clambering over the benches, often piſſed a bed, and always came in ſo dirty, as if he had been dragged through the kennel at a boarding-ſchool. He loſt his money at chuck-farthing, ſhuffle-cap, and all fours; ſold his books, pawned his linen,

* Something relating to the manners of a great prince, ſuperſtition, love of operas, ſhows, &c.

en, which we were always forced to redeem. Then the whole generation of him are ſo in love with bagpipes and puppet-ſhews! I wiſh you knew what my huſband has paid at the paſtry-cook's and confectioner's for *Naples* biſcuit, tarts, cuſtards, and ſweet-meats. All this while my huſband conſidered him as a gentleman of a good family, that had fallen into decay, gave him good education, and has ſettled him in a good creditable way of living, having procured him by his intereſt, one of the beſt places of the country: and what return think you, does this fine gentleman make us? He will hardly give me or my huſband a good word, or a civil expreſſion:* inſtead of *ſir* and *madam* (which, though I ſay it, is our due) he calls us *goody* and *gaffer* ſuch-a-one: ſays, he did us a great deal of honour to board with us; huffs and dings at ſuch a rate, becauſe we will not ſpend the little we have left to get him the title and eſtate of lord *Strutt*; and then, forſooth, we ſhall have the honour to be his woolen-drapers. Beſides, eſquire *South* will be

eſquire

* Something relating to forms and titles.

eſquire *South* ſtill; fickle, proud, and ungrateful. If he behaves himſelf ſo, when he depends on us for his daily bread, can any man ſay, what he will do when he is got above the world?

D. Diego. And would you loſe the honour of ſo noble and generous an undertaking? Would you rather accept this ſcandalous compoſition, and truſt that old rogue, *Lewis Baboon?*

Mrs. *Bull.* Look you, friend *Diego*, if we law it on, till *Lewis* turns honeſt, I am afraid our credit will run low at *Blackwell-hall.* I wiſh every man had his own; but I ſtill ſay, that lord *Strutt*'s money ſhines as bright and chinks as well as eſquire *South*'s. I don't know any other hold, that we tradeſmen have of theſe great folks, but their intereſt; buy dear and ſell cheap, and I'll warrant ye you will keep your cuſtomer. The worſt is, that lord *Strutt*'s ſervants have got ſuch a haunt about that old rogue's ſhop, that it will coſt us many a firkin of ſtrong beer to bring them back again: and the longer they are in a bad road,

road, the harder it will be to get them out of it.

D. Diego. But poor *Frog*, what has he done! On my conſcience, if there be an honeſt, ſincere man in the world, it is that *Frog*.

Mrs. *Bull.* I think, I need not tell you how much *Frog* has been obliged to our * family from his childhood; he carries his head high now, but he had never been the man he is, without our help. Ever ſince the commencement of this law-ſuit it has been the buſineſs of *Hocus*, in ſharing our expenſes, to plead for *Frog*. "Poor *Frog* (ſays he) "is in hard circumſtances, he has a nu- "merous family, and lives from hand to "mouth; his children don't eat a bit "of good victuals from one year's end "to the other, but live upon ſalt her- "ring, four crud, and borecole; he "does his utmoſt, poor fellow, to keep "things even in the world, and has ex- "erted himſelf beyond his ability in this "law-ſuit;

* On the other ſide complaint was made of the unequal burden of the war.

"law-ſuit; but he really has not where-
"withal to go on. What ſignifies this
"hundred pounds? place it upon your
"ſide of the account; it is a great deal
"to poor *Frog*, and a trifle to you."
This has been *Hocus's* conſtant lan-
guage, and I am ſure he has had obliga-
tions enough to us to have acted ano-
ther part.

D. Diego. No doubt *Hocus* meant all this for the beſt, but he is a tender-hearted, charitable man; *Frog* is in-deed in hard circumſtances.

Mrs. *Bull.* Hard circumſtances! I ſwear, this is provoking to the laſt de-gree.* All the time of the law-ſuit, as faſt as I have mortgaged, *Frog* has pur-chaſed. From a plain tradeſman with a ſhop, ware-houſe, and a country hut, with a dirty fiſh-pond at the end of it, he is now grown a very rich country gentleman, with a noble landed eſtate, noble palaces, manors, parks, gardens, and farms, finer than any we were ever maſter

* and of the acquiſitions of the *Dutch* in *Flanders*: dur-ing theſe debates the houſe took into conſideration.

maſter of. Is it not ſtrange, when my huſband diſburſed great ſums every term, *Frog* ſhould be purchaſing ſome new farm or manor? So that if this law-ſuit laſts, he will be far the richeſt man in his country. What is worſe than all this, he ſteals away my cuſtomers every day: twelve of the richeſt and the beſt have left my ſhop by his perſuaſion, and whom, to my certain knowledge, he has under bonds never to return again: judge you if this be neighbourly dealing.

D. Diego. *Frog* is indeed pretty cloſe in his dealings, but very honeſt: you are ſo touchy, and take things ſo hotly, I am ſure there muſt be ſome miſtake in this.

Mrs. *Bull.* A plaguy one indeed! You know, and have often told me of it, how *Hocus*, and thoſe rogues kept my huſband *John Bull* drunk for five years together with punch and ſtrong waters; I am ſure he never went one night ſober to bed, till they got him to ſign the ſtrangeſt deed, that ever you ſaw

ſaw in your life. The methods they took to manage him I'll tell you another time; at preſent, I'll read only the writing.

ARTICLES of AGREEMENT betwixt JOHN BULL, *Clothier, and* NICHOLAS FROG, *Linen-draper.**

I. THAT for maintaining the ancient good correſpondence and friendſhip between the ſaid parties, I *Nicholas Frog* do ſolemnly engage, and promiſe to keep peace in *John Bull*'s family; that neither his wife, children, nor ſervants give him any trouble, diſturbance, or moleſtation whatſoever, but to oblige them all to do their duty quietly in their reſpective ſtations: and where-

* a treaty which had been concluded by the lord *Townſhend* at the *Hague* between the Queen and the States in 1709, for ſecuring the proteſtant ſucceſſion, and for ſettling a barrier for *Holland* againſt *France*. And it was reſolved, that ſeveral articles of this treaty were deſtructive to the trade, and intereſt of *Great Britain*, that lord *Townſhend* had no authority to agree to them, and that he and all thoſe, who adviſed ratifying the treaty, were enemies to their country.

as, the ſaid *John Bull*, from the aſſured confidence, that he has in my friendſhip, has appointed me executor of his laſt will and teſtament, and guardian to his children, I do undertake for me, my heirs and aſſigns, to ſee the ſame duly executed and performed, and that it ſhall be unalterable in all its parts by *John Bull*, or any body elſe: for that purpoſe it ſhall be lawful and allowable for me to enter his houſe at any hour of the day or night; to break open bars, bolts, and doors, cheſts of drawers, and ſtrong boxes, in order to ſecure the peace of my friend *John Bull's* family, and to ſee his will duly executed.

II. In conſideration of which kind neighbourly office of *Nicholas Frog*, in that he has been pleaſed to accept of the aforeſaid truſt, I *John Bull* having duly conſidered, that my friend *Nicholas Frog* at this time lives in a marſhy ſoil and unwholeſome air, infeſted with fogs and damps deſtructive of the health of himſelf, wife, and children; to bind and oblige me, my heirs and aſſigns, to purchaſe for the ſaid *Nicholas Frog*,

with

with the beſt and readieſt of my caſh, bonds, mortgages, goods, and chattels, a landed eſtate, with parks, gardens, palaces, rivers, fields, and outlets, conſiſting of as large extent, as the ſaid *Nicholas Frog* ſhall think fit. And whereas the ſaid *Nicholas Frog* is at preſent hemmed in too cloſe by the grounds of *Lewis Baboon*, maſter of the ſcience of defence, I the ſaid *John Bull* do oblige myſelf, with the readieſt of my caſh, to purchaſe and encloſe the ſaid grounds, for as many fields and acres as the ſaid *Nicholas* ſhall think fit; to the intent that the ſaid *Nicholas* may have free egreſs and regreſs, without lett or moleſtation, ſuitable to the demands of himſelf and family.

III. Furthermore, the ſaid *John Bull* obliges himſelf to make the country neighbours of *Nicholas Frog* allot a certain part of yearly rents to pay for the repairs of the ſaid landed eſtate, to the intent that his good friend *Nicholas Frog* may be eaſed of all charges.

IV. And whereas the ſaid *Nicholas Frog*

Frog did contract with the deceaſed lord *Strutt* about certain liberties, privileges, and immunities, formerly in the poſſeſſion of the ſaid *John Bull*; I the ſaid *John Bull* do freely by theſe preſents renounce, quit, and make over to the ſaid *Nicholas*, the liberties, privileges, and immunities contracted for, in as full a manner, as if they never had belonged to me.

V. The ſaid *John Bull* obliges himſelf, his heirs and aſſigns, not to ſell one rag of broad or coarſe cloth to any gentleman within the neighbourhood of the ſaid *Nicholas*, except in ſuch quantities and ſuch rates, as the ſaid *Nicholas* ſhall think fit.

Signed and ſealed,

JOHN BULL.
NIC. FROG.

The reading of this paper put Mrs *Bull* in ſuch a paſſion, that ſhe fell downright into a fit, and they were forced to

to give her a good quantity of the ſpirit of hartſhorn before ſhe recovered.

D. Diego. Why in ſuch a paſſion, couſin? conſidering your circumſtances at that time, I don't think this ſuch an unreaſonable contract. You ſee *Frog*, for all this, is religiouſly true to his bargain; he ſcorns to hearken to any compoſition without your privacy.

Mrs. *Bull.* You know the * contrary. Read that letter.

[*Reads the ſuperſcription*]

For LEWIS BABOON, maſter of the noble ſcience of defence.

SIR,

I UNDERSTAND, that you are at this time treating with my friend *John Bull* about reſtoring the lord *Strutt*'s cuſtom, and beſides allowing him

F 2

* In the mean time the *Dutch* were ſecretly negociating with *France*.

him certain privileges of parks and fish-ponds; I wonder how you, that are a man that knows the world, can talk with that ſimple fellow. He has been my bubble theſe twenty years, and to my certain knowledge underſtands no more of his own affairs, than a child in ſwaddling cloaths. I know he has got a ſort of a pragmatical ſilly jade of a wife, that pretends to take him out of my hands: but you and ſhe both will find yourſelves miſtaken; I'll find thoſe that ſhall manage her; and for him, he dares as well be hanged as make one ſtep in his affairs without my conſent. If you will give me what you promiſed him, I will make all things eaſy, and ſtop the deeds of ejectment againſt lord *Strutt*; if you will not, take what follows: I ſhall have a good action againſt you, for pretending to rob me of my bubble. Take this warning from

Your loving friend,

NIC. FROG.

I am told, couſin *Diego*, you are one of

of thoſe who have undertaken to manage me, and that you have ſaid you will carry a green bag yourſelf, rather than we ſhall make an end of our lawſuit: I'll teach them and you too to manage.

D. Diego. For God's ſake, madam, why ſo cholerick? I ſay, this letter is ſome forgery; it never entered into the head of that honeſt man, *Nic. Frog*, to do any ſuch thing.

Mrs. *Bull.* I can't abide you: you have been railing theſe twenty years at eſquire *South*, *Frog*, and *Hocus*, calling them rogues and pick-pockets, and now they are turned the honeſteſt fellows in the world. What is the meaning of all this?

D. Diego. Pray tell me how you came to employ this ſir *Roger* in your affairs, and not think of your old friend *Diego*?

Mrs. *Bull.* So, ſo, there it pinches. To tell you truth, I have employed ſir *Roger* in ſeveral weighty affairs, and have

have found him truſty and honeſt, and the poor man always ſcorned to take a farthing of me. I have abundance that profeſs great zeal, but they are damnable greedy of the pence. My huſband and I are now in ſuch circumſtances, that we muſt be ſerved upon cheaper terms, than we have been.

D. Diego. Well, couſin, I find I can do no good with you; I am ſorry that you will ruin yourſelf by truſting this ſir *Roger*.

CHAP. XVI.

How the guardians of the deceaſed Mrs. Bull's *three daughters came to* John, *and what advice they gave him; wherein are briefly treated, the characters of the three daughters: alſo,* John Bull's *anſwer to the three guardians.**

I TOLD you in a former chapter, that Mrs. *Bull*, before ſhe departed this

* The debates in parliament were however ſtill continued.

this life, had bleſſed *John* with three daughters. I need not here repeat their names, neither would I willingly uſe any ſcandalous reflections upon young ladies, whoſe reputations ought to be very tenderly handled; but the characters of theſe were ſo well known in the neighbourhood, that it is doing them no injury, to make a ſhort deſcription of them.

* The eldeſt was a termagant, imperious, prodigal, lewd, profligate wench, as ever breathed: ſhe uſed to rantipole about the houſe, pinch the children, kick the ſervants, and torture the cats and the dogs; ſhe would rob her father's ſtrong box, for money to give the young fellows that ſhe was fond of: ſhe had a noble air, and ſomething great in her mein, but ſuch a noiſome infectious breath, as threw all the ſervants that dreſſed her, into conſumptions; if ſhe ſmelt to the freſheſt noſegay, it would ſhrivel and wither as it had been blighted: ſhe uſed to come home in her cups, and break the china and the looking-

* *Polemia*, War,

looking-glaſſes; and was of ſuch an irregular temper, and ſo entirely given up to her paſſion, that you might argue as well with the *North* wind, as with her ladyſhip: ſo expenſive, that the income of three dukedoms was not enough to ſupply her extravagance. *Hocus* loved her beſt, believing her to be his own, got upon the body of Mrs. *Bull*.

* The ſecond daughter, born a year after her ſiſter, was a peeviſh, froward, ill-conditioned creature as ever was, ugly as the devil, lean, haggard, pale, with ſaucer eyes, a ſharp noſe, and hunch-backed: but active, ſprightly, and diligent about her affairs. Her ill complexion was occaſioned by her bad diet, which was coffee, morning, noon, and night: ſhe never reſted quietly a-bed; but uſed to diſturb the whole family with ſhrieking out in her dreams, and plague them next day with interpreting them, for ſhe took them all for goſpel: ſhe would cry out murder, and diſturb the whole neighbourhood; and when *John* came running down ſtairs to

* *Diſcordia*, Faction.

to enquire what the matter was: nothing, forſooth, only her maid had ſtuck a pin wrong in her gown: ſhe turned away one ſervant, for putting too much oil in her ſallad, and another for putting too little ſalt in her water-gruel; but ſuch, as by flattery, had procured her eſteem, ſhe would indulge in the greateſt crime. Her father had two coachmen; when one was in the coach-box, if the coach ſwung but the leaſt to one ſide, ſhe uſed to ſhriek ſo loud, that all the ſtreet concluded ſhe was overturned; but though the other was eternally drunk, and had overturned the whole family, ſhe was very angry with her father for turning him away. Then ſhe uſed to carry tales and ſtories from one to another, till ſhe had ſet the whole neighbourhood together by the ears; and this was the only diverſion ſhe took pleaſure in. She never went abroad, but ſhe brought home ſuch a bundle of monſtrous lies, as would have amazed any mortal but ſuch as knew her: of a whale that had ſwallowed a fleet of ſhips; of the lions being let out of the *Tower* to deſtroy the proteſtant religion;

religion; of the Pope's being ſeen in a brandy-ſhop at *Wapping*; and of a prodigious ſtrong man, that was going to ſhove down the cupola of St. *Paul's*; of three millions of five pound pieces, that eſquire *South* had found under an old wall; of blazing ſtars, flying dragons, and abundance of ſuch ſtuff. All the ſervants in the family made high court to her, for ſhe domineered there, and turned out and in whom ſhe pleaſed; only there was an old grudge between her and ſir *Roger*, whom ſhe mortally hated, and uſed to hire fellows to ſquirt kennel water upon him, as he paſſed along the ſtreets; ſo that he was forced conſtantly to wear a ſurtout of oiled cloth, by which means he came home pretty clean, except where the ſurtout was a little ſcanty.

* As for the third, ſhe was a thief, and a common mercenary proſtitute, and that without any ſolicitation from nature, for ſhe owned ſhe had no enjoyment. She had no reſpect of perſons, a prince or a porter was all one, according

* *Uſuria*, Uſury.

according as they paid; yea, ſhe would leave the fineſt gentleman in the world to go to an ugly pocky fellow for ſixpence more. In the practice of her profeſſion ſhe had amaſſed vaſt magazines of all ſorts of things; ſhe had above five hundred ſuits of fine cloaths, and yet went abroad like a cinder-wench: ſhe robbed and ſtarved all the ſervants, ſo that nobody could live near her.

So much for *John*'s three daughters, which you will ſay were rarities to be fond of: yet nature will ſhew itſelf; nobody could blame their relations for taking care of them: and therefore it was that *Hocus*, with two other of the guardians, thought it their duty to take care of the intereſt of the three girls, and give *John* their beſt advice before he compounded the law-ſuit.

Hocus. What makes you ſo ſhy of late, my good friend? There's nobody loves you better than I, nor has taken more pains in your affairs: as I hope to be ſaved, I would do any thing to

ſerve you; I would crawl upon all four to ſerve you; I have ſpent my health and paternal eſtate in your ſervice. I have, indeed, a ſmall pittance left, with which I might retire, and with as good a conſcience as any man; but the thoughts of this diſgraceful compoſition ſo touches me to the quick, that I cannot ſleep: after I had brought the cauſe to the laſt ſtroke, that one verdict more had quite ruined old *Lewis*, and lord *Strutt*, and put you in the quiet poſſeſſion of every thing; then to compound! I cannot bear it. This cauſe was my favourite, I had ſet my heart upon it; it is like an only child; I cannot endure it ſhould miſcarry: for God's ſake conſider only to what a diſmal condition old *Lewis* is brought. He is at an end of all his caſh; his attorneys have hardly one trick left; they are at an end of all their *chicane*; beſides, he has both his law and his daily bread now upon truſt. Hold out only one term longer, and I'll warrant you, before the next we ſhall have him in the *Fleet*. I'll bring him to the pillory; his ears ſhall pay for his perjuries.

For

For the love of God don't compound: let me be damned if you have a friend in the world, that loves you better than I: there is nobody can ſay am I covetous, or that I have any intereſt to purſue, but yours.

2*d Guardian.* There is nothing ſo plain, as that this *Lewis* has a deſign to ruin all his neighbouring tradeſman; and at this time he has ſuch a prodigious income by his trade of all kinds, that if there is not ſome ſtop put to his exorbitant riches, he will monopolize every thing; no body will be able to ſell a yard of drapery or mercery ware but himſelf. I then hold it adviſeable, that you continue the law-ſuit, and burſt him at once. My concern for the three poor motherleſs children obliges me to give you this advice; for their eſtates, poor girls! depend upon the ſucceſs of this cauſe.

3*d Guardian.* I own this writ of ejectment has coſt dear; but then conſider it is a jewel well worth the purchaſing at the price of all you have.

None

None but Mr. *Bull*'s declared enemies can ſay, he has any other ſecurity for his cloathing trade, but the ejectment of lord *Strutt*. The only queſtion then that remains to be decided, is, who ſhall ſtand the expences of the ſuit? To which the anſwer is as plain; who but he, that is to have the advantage of the ſentence? When eſquire *South* has got poſſeſſion of his title and honour, is not *John Bull* to be his clothier? Who then, but *John*, ought to put him in poſſeſſion? Aſk but any indifferent gentleman, who ought to bear his charges at law? and he will readily anſwer, his tradeſmen. I do therefore affirm, and I will go to death with it, that, being his clothier, you ought to put him in quiet poſſeſſion of his eſtate, and, with the ſame generous ſpirit you have begun it, compleat the good work. If you perſiſt in the bad meaſures you are now in, what muſt become of the three poor orphans? My heart bleeds for the poor girls.

John Bull. You are all very eloquent perſons; but give me leave to tell

tell you, you expreſs a great deal more concern for the three girls than for me; I think my intereſt ought to be conſidered in the firſt place. As for you, *Hocus*, I can't but ſay you have managed my law-ſuit with great addreſs, and much to my honour; and though I ſay it, you have been well paid for it. Why muſt the burthen be taken off *Frog*'s back, and laid upon my ſhoulders? He can drive about his own parks and fields in his gilt chariot, when I have been forced to mortgage my eſtate: his note will go farther than my bond. Is it not matter of fact, that from the richeſt tradeſman in all the country, I am reduced to beg and borrow from ſcriveners and uſurers, that ſuck the heart, blood, and guts out of me? and what is all this for? Did you like *Frog*'s countenance better than mine? Was not I your old friend and relation? Have I not preſented you nobly? Have I not clad your whole family? Have you not had an hundred yards at a time of the fineſt cloth in my ſhop? Why muſt the reſt of the tradeſmen be not only indemnified from char-

ges, but forbid to go on with their own buſineſs, and what is more their concern than mine? As to holding out this term, I appeal to your own conſcience, has not that been your conſtant diſcourſe theſe ſix years, *One term more, and old* Lewis *goes to pot.* If thou art ſo fond of my cauſe, be generous for once, and lend me a brace of thouſands. Ah *Hocus! Hocus!* I know thee; not a ſous to ſave me from jail, I trow. Look ye, gentlemen, I have lived with credit in the world, and it grieves my heart, never to ſtir out of my doors but to be pulled by the ſleeve by ſome raſcally dun or other? "Sir, remember "my bill: there's a ſmall concern of a "thouſand pounds, I hope you think "on't, Sir." And to have theſe uſurers tranſact my debts at coffee-houſes, and ale-houſes, as if I were going to break up ſhop. Lord! that ever the rich, the generous *John Bull*, clothier, the envy of all his neighbours, ſhould be brought to compound his debts for five ſhillings in the pound; and to have his name in an advertiſement for a ſtatute of bankrupt. The thought of it makes me

me mad. I have read ſomewhere in the *Apocrypha*, that one ſhould not *conſult with a woman touching her of whom ſhe is jealous; nor with a merchant concerning exchange; nor with a buyer of ſelling; nor with an unmerciful man of kindneſs*, &c. I could have added one thing more, *nor with an attorney about compounding a law-ſuit.* The ejectment of lord *Strutt* will never do. The evidence is crimp; the witneſſes ſwear backwards and forwards, and contradict themſelves; and his tenants ſtick by him. One tells me, that I muſt carry on my ſuit, becauſe *Lewis* is poor; another, becauſe he is ſtill too rich: whom ſhall I believe? I am ſure of one thing, that a penny in the purſe is the beſt friend *John* can have at laſt; and who can ſay that this will be the laſt ſuit I ſhall be engaged in? Beſides, if this ejectment were practicable, is it reaſonable, that when eſquire *South* is loſing his money to ſharpers and pick-pockets, going about the country with fidlers and buffoons, and ſquandering his income with hawks and dogs, I ſhould lay out the fruits of my honeſt induſtry

induſtry in a law-ſuit for him, only upon the hopes of being his clothier? and when the cauſe is over, I ſhall not have the benefit of my project for want of money to go to market. Look ye, gentlemen, *John Bull* is but a plain man; but *John Bull* knows when he is ill uſed. I know the infirmity of our family; we are apt to play the boon companion, and throw away our money in our cups: but it was an unfair thing in you, gentlemen, to take advantage of my weakneſs, to keep a parcel of roaring bullies about me day and night, with huzzas and hunting-horns, and ringing the changes on butchers cleavers, never let me cool, and make me ſet my hand to papers, when I could hardly hold my pen. There will come a day of reckoning for all that proceeding. In the mean time, gentlemen, I beg you will let me into my affairs a little, and that you would not grudge me the ſmall remainder of a very great eſtate.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

Eſquire South's *meſſage and letter to Mrs.* Bull.

THE arguments uſed by *Hocus*, and the reſt of the guardians had hitherto proved inſufficient :* *John* and his wife could not be perſuaded to bear the expenſe of eſquire *South*'s law-ſuit. They thought it reaſonable, that ſince he was to have the honour and advantage, he ſhould bear the greateſt ſhare of the charges ; and retrench what he loſt to ſharpers, and ſpent upon country dances and puppet-plays, to apply it to that uſe. This was not very grateful to the eſquire ; therefore, as the laſt experiment, he reſolved to ſend † ſignior *Benenato*, maſter of his fox-hounds, to Mrs. *Bull*, to try what good he could do

* But as all attempts of the party to proclude the treaty were ineffectual, and complaints were made of the deficiencies of the houſe of *Auſtria*, the Archduke ſent a meſſage and letter

† by Prince *Eugene*, urging the continuance of the war, and offering to bear a proportion of the expence.

do with her. This ſignior *Benenato* had all the qualities of a fine gentleman, that were fit to charm a lady's heart; and if any perſon in the world could have perſuaded her, it was he. But ſuch was her unſhaken fidelity to her huſband, and the conſtant purpoſe of her mind to purſue his intereſt, that the moſt refined arts of gallantry that were practiſed, could not ſeduce her heart. The necklaces, diamond croſſes, and rich bracelets that were offered, ſhe rejected with the utmoſt ſcorn and diſdain. The muſick and ſerenades, that were given her, ſounded more ungratefully in her ears than the noiſe of a ſcreech-owl; however, ſhe received eſquire *South*'s letter by the hands of ſignior *Benenato* with that reſpect, which became his quality. The copy of the letter is as follows, in which you will obſerve, he changes a little his uſual ſtyle.

MADAM,

THE writ of ejectment againſt *Philip Baboon*, (pretended lord *Strutt*) is juſt ready to paſs: there wants but a few

few neceſſary forms, and a verdict or two more, to put me in the quiet poſſeſſion of my honour and eſtate: I queſtion not, but that according to your wonted generoſity and goodneſs you will give it the finiſhing ſtroke; an honour that I would grudge any body but yourſelf. In order to eaſe you of ſome part of the charges, I promiſe to furniſh pen, ink, and paper, provided you pay for the ſtamps. Beſides, I have ordered my ſtewards to pay out of the readieſt and beſt of my rents, five pounds ten ſhillings a year, till my ſuit is finiſhed. I wiſh you health and happineſs, being with due reſpect,

MADAM,

Your aſſured friend,

SOUTH.

What anſwer Mrs. *Bull* returned to this letter, you ſhall know in my ſecond part, only they were at a pretty good diſtance in their propoſals; for as eſquire *South* only offered to be at the

the charges of pen, ink, and paper, Mrs. *Bull* refuſed any more than to lend her barge * to carry his council to *Weſtminſter-hall.*

* This proportion was however thought to be ſo inconſiderable, that the letter produced no other effect, than the convoy of the forces by the *Engliſh* fleet, to *Barcelona.*

15 OC 61

END OF THE FIRST PART.

Law is a Bottomleſs Pit:

OR, THE

HISTORY

OF

JOHN BULL.

PUBLISHED

FROM A MANUSCRIPT FOUND IN THE CABINET OF THE FAMOUS SIR H. POLESWORTH, IN THE YEAR 1712.

SECOND PART.

A NEW EDITION.

BOSTON:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY JOHN W. FOLSOM,
No. 30, UNION-STREET.

M,DCC,XCIV.

THE PUBLISHER'S

PREFACE.

THE world is much indebted to the famous ſir Humphrey Poleſworth *for his ingenious and impartial account of* John Bull's *lawſuit; yet there is juſt cauſe of complaint againſt him, in that he relates it only by parcels, and won't give us the whole work: This forces me, who am only the publiſher, to beſpeak the aſſiſtance of his friends and acquaintance to engage him to lay aſide that ſtingy humour, and gratify the curioſity of the publick at once. He pleads in excuſe, that they are only private memoirs, wrote for his own uſe, in a looſe ſtyle, to ſerve as a help to his ordinary converſation.* I repreſented to him the good reception the firſt*

* This excuſe of ſir *Humphrey* can only relate to the ſecond part, or ſequel of the hiſtory. See the preface to the firſt part.

firſt part had met with; that though calculated only for the meridian of Grub-ſtreet, *it was yet taken notice of by the better ſort; that the world was now ſufficiently acquainted with* John Bull, *and intereſted itſelf in his concerns. He anſwered, with a ſmile, that he had indeed ſome trifling things to impart, that concerned* John Bull's *relations and domeſtic affairs; if theſe would ſatisfy me, he gave me free leave to make uſe of them, becauſe they would ſerve to make the hiſtory of the law-ſuit more intelligible. When I had looked over the manuſcript, I found likewiſe ſome further account of the compoſition, which perhaps may not be unacceptable to ſuch as have read the former part.*

THE

THE

HISTORY

OF

JOHN BULL.

CHAP. I.

The character of * John Bull's *mother.*

JOHN had a mother whom he loved and honoured extremely; a diſcreet, grave, ſober, good conditioned, cleanly old gentlewoman as ever lived; ſhe was none of your croſs-grained,

* The Church of *England.*

termagant, ſcolding jades, that one had as good be hanged as live in the houſe with, ſuch as are always cenſuring the conduct, and telling ſcandalous ſtories of their neighbours, extolling their own good qualities, and undervaluing thoſe of others. On the contrary, ſhe was of a meek ſpirit, and as ſhe was ſtrictly virtuous herſelf, ſo ſhe always put the beſt conſtruction upon the words and actions of her neighbours, except where they were irreconcileable to the rules of honeſty and decency. She was neither one of your preciſe *prudes*, nor one of your fantaſtical old *belles*, that dreſs themſelves like girls of fifteen: as ſhe neither wore a ruff, forehead cloth, nor high crowned hat, ſo ſhe had laid aſide feathers, flowers, and crimpt ribbons in her head-dreſs, furbelo-ſcarfs, and hooped-petticoats. She ſcorned to patch and paint, yet ſhe loved to keep her hands and her face clean. Though ſhe wore no flaunting laced ruffles, ſhe would not keep herſelf in a conſtant ſweat with greaſy flannel: though her hair was not ſtuck with jewels, ſhe was not aſhamed of a diamond croſs: ſhe

was

was not like ſome ladies, hung about with toys and trinkets, tweezer-caſes, pocket-glaſſes, and eſſence bottles; ſhe uſed only a gold watch and an almanack, to mark the hours and the holy-days.

Her furniture was neat and genteel, well fancied with a *bon gouſt*. As ſhe affected not the grandeur of a ſtate with a canopy, ſhe thought there was no offence in an elbow-chair; ſhe had laid aſide your carving, gilding, and japan work, as being too apt to gather dirt; but ſhe never could be prevailed upon to part with plain wainſcot and clean hangings. There are ſome ladies, that affect to ſmell a ſtink in every thing; they are always highly perfumed, and continually burning frankincenſe in their rooms; ſhe was above ſuch affectation, yet ſhe never would lay aſide the uſe of brooms and ſcrubbing-bruſhes, and ſcrupled not to lay her linen in freſh lavender.

She was no leſs genteel in her behaviour, well-bred, without affectation, in the

the due mean between one of your affected curt'ſying pieces of formality, and your romps that have no regard to the common rules of civility. There are ſome ladies, that affect a mighty regard for their relations; *We muſt not eat to-day, for my uncle* Tom, *or my couſin* Betty, *died this time ten years: Let's have a ball to-night, it is my neighbour ſuch-a-one's birth-day;* ſhe looked upon all this as grimace; yet ſhe conſtantly obſerved her huſband's birth-day, her wedding-day, and ſome few more.

Though ſhe was a truly good woman, and had a ſincere motherly love for her ſon *John*, yet there wanted not thoſe who endeavoured to create a miſunderſtanding between them, and they had ſo far prevailed with him once, that he turned her out of doors,* to his great ſorrow, as he found afterwards, for his affairs went on at ſixes and ſevens.

She was no leſs judicious in the turn of her converſation and choice of her ſtudies, in which ſhe far exceeded all her

* In the Rebellion of 1641.

her ſex: your rakes that hate the company of all ſober, grave gentlewomen, would bear hers; and ſhe would, by her handſome manner of proceeding, ſooner reclaim them than ſome that were more ſour and reſerved: ſhe was a zealous preacher up of chaſtity, and *conjugal fidelity* in wives, and by no means a friend to the new-fangled doctrine of the *indiſpenſable duty of cuckoldom*: though ſhe advanced her opinions with a becoming aſſurance, yet ſhe never uſhered them in, as ſome poſitive creatures will do, with dogmatical aſſertions, *This is infallible; I cannot be miſtaken; None but a rogue can deny it.* It has been obſerved, that ſuch people are oftner in the wrong than any body.

Though ſhe had a thouſand good qualities, ſhe was not without her faults, amongſt which one might perhaps reckon too great lenity to her ſervants, to whom ſhe always gave good counſel, but often too gentle correction. I thought I could not ſay leſs of *John Bull's* mother, becauſe ſhe bears a part in the following tranſactions.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The character of John Bull's * *ſiſter* Peg, *with the quarrels that happened between maſter and miſs in their childhood.*

JOHN had a ſiſter, a poor girl that had been ſtarved at nurſe; any body would have gueſſed miſs to have been bred up under the influence of a cruel ſtep-dame, and *John* to be the fondling of a tender mother. *John* looked ruddy and plump, with a pair of cheeks like a trumpeter; miſs looked pale and wan, as if ſhe had the green ſickneſs; and no wonder, for *John* was the darling, he had all the good bits, was crammed with good pullet, chicken, pig, gooſe, and capon, while miſs had only a little oatmeal and water, or a dry cruſt without butter. *John* had his golden pippins, peaches, and nectarines; poor miſs a crab-apple, ſloe, or a blackberry. Maſter lay in the beſt apartment, with his bed-chamber towards the ſouth ſun. Miſs lodged in a garret, expoſed to the north

* The nation and Church of *Scotland*.

north wind, which ſhrivelled her countenance; however, this uſage, though it ſtunted the girl in her growth, gave her a hardy conſtitution; ſhe had life and ſpirit in abundance, and knew when ſhe was ill uſed: now and then ſhe would ſeize upon *John*'s commons, ſnatch a leg of a pullet, or a bit of good beef, for which they were ſure to go to fifty cuffs. Maſter was indeed too ſtrong for her; but miſs would not yield in the leaſt point, but even when maſter had got her down, ſhe would ſcratch and bite like a tyger; when he gave her a cuff on the ear, ſhe would prick him with her knitting-needle. *John* brought a great chain one day to tye her to the bed-poſt, for which affront, miſs aimed a pen-knife at his heart.* In ſhort, theſe quarrels grew up to rooted averſions; they gave one another nick-names: ſhe called him *Gundy-guts*, and he called her *louſy Peg*; though the girl was a tight clever wench as

* *Henry* VIII. to unite the two kingdoms under one ſovereign offered his daughter *Mary* to *James* V. of *Scotland*; this offer was rejected, and followed by a war: to this event probably the author alludes.

as any was, and thro' her pale looks you might diſcern ſpirit and vivacity, which made her not, indeed, a perfect beauty, but ſomething that was agreeable. It was barbarous in parents not to take notice of theſe early quarrels, and make them live better together, ſuch domeſtick feuds proving afterwards the occaſion of misfortunes to them both. *Peg* had, indeed, ſome odd humours, and comical antipathy, for which, *John* would jeer her. "What think you of "my ſiſter *Peg* (ſays he) that faints at "the ſound of an organ, and yet will "dance and friſk at the noiſe of a bag-"pipe?" "What's that to you, *Gundy-"guts*, (quoth *Peg*) every body's to "chuſe their own muſick." Then *Peg* had taken a fancy not to ſay her *Pater-noſter*, which made people imagine ſtrange things of her. Of the three brothers, that have made ſuch a clutter in the world, lord *Peter*, *Martin* and *Jack*, * *Jack* had of late been her inclinations: lord *Peter* ſhe deteſted: nor did *Martin* ſtand much better in her good graces, but *Jack* had found the way

* Love of Preſbytery.

way to her heart. I have often admired, what charms ſhe diſcovered in that aukward booby, till I talked with a perſon that was acquainted with the intrigue, who gave me the following account of it.

CHAP. III.

* Jack's *charms, or the method by which he gained* Peg's *heart.*

IN the firſt place, *Jack* was a very young fellow, by much the youngeſt of the three brothers, and people, indeed, wondered how ſuch a young upſtart jackanapes ſhould grow ſo pert and ſaucy, and take ſo much upon him.

Jack bragged of greater abilities than other men; he was *well-gifted*, as he pretended; I need not tell you what ſecret influence that has upon the ladies.

* Character of the Preſbyterians.

Jack had a moſt ſcandalous tongue, and perſuaded *Peg* that all mankind, beſides himſelf, were poxed by that ſcarlet-faced whore * *Signiora Bubonia*, "As for his brother, lord *Peter*, the "tokens were evident on him, blotches, "ſcabs, and the corona: his brother "*Martin*, though he was not quite ſo "bad, had ſome nocturnal pains, which "his friends pretended were only ſcor-"butical; but he was ſure it proceeded "from a worſe cauſe." By ſuch malicious inſinuations, he had poſſeſſed the lady, that he was the only man in the world of a ſound, pure, and untainted conſtitution: though there were ſome that ſtuck not to ſay, that *Signior Bubonia* and *Jack* railed at one another, only the better to hide an intrigue; and, that *Jack* had been found with *Signiora* under his cloak, carrying her home in a dark ſtormy night,

Jack was a prodigious ogler; he would ogle you the outſide of his eye inward, and the white upward.

Jack

* The whore of *Babylon*, or the *Pope*.

Jack gave himſelf out for a man of a great eſtate in the Fortunate iſlands: of which the ſole property was veſted in his perſon: by this trick he cheated abundance of poor people of ſmall ſums, pretending to make over plantations in the ſaid iſlands; but when the poor wretches came there with *Jack*'s grant, they were beat, mocked, and turned out of doors.

I told you that *Peg* was whimſical, and loved any thing that was particular: in that way, *Jack* was her man, for he neither thought, ſpoke, dreſſed, nor acted like other mortals: he was for your *bold ſtrokes*, he railed at fops, though he was himſelf the moſt affected in the world; inſtead of the common faſhion, he would viſit his miſtreſs in a mourning cloak, band, ſhort cuffs, and a peaked beard, He invented a way of coming into a room backwards, which, he ſaid, ſhewed more humility, and leſs affectation: where other people ſtood, he ſat; where they ſat, he ſtood; when he went to court, he uſed to kick away the ſtate, and ſit down by his

his prince cheek by jole : *Confound theſe ſtates*, ſays he, *they are a modern invention* : when he ſpoke to his prince, he always turned his breech upon him : If he was adviſed to faſt for his health, he would eat roaſt beef ; if he was allowed a more plentiful diet, then he would be ſure that day to live upon water-gruel ; he would cry at a wedding, laugh and make jeſts at a funeral.

He was no leſs ſingular in his opinions ; you would have burſt your ſides to hear him talk of politicks :* "All "government, ſays he, is founded upon "the right diſtribution of *puniſhments* : "decent executions keep the world in "awe ; for that reaſon the majority of "mankind ought to be hanged every "year. For example, I ſuppoſe the "magiſtrate ought to paſs an irreverſi-"ble ſentence upon all *blue eyed chil-"dren* from the cradle ;† but that there "may be ſome ſhew of juſtice in this "proceeding, theſe children ought to "be trained up by maſters, appointed "for

* Abſolute predeſtination.
† Reprobation.

"for that purpoſe, to all ſorts of villa-
"ny; that they may deſerve their fate,
"and the execution of them may ſerve
"as an object of terror to the reſt of
"mankind," As to the giving of *par-dons*, he had this ſingular method.* That when theſe wretches had the rope about their necks, it ſhould be enquired, who believed they ſhould be hanged, and who not? The firſt were to be par-doned, the laſt hanged out-right. Such as were once pardoned, were never to be hanged afterwards for any crime whatſoever.† He had ſuch ſkill in phy-ſiognomy, that he would pronounce pe-remptorily upon a man's face, *That fel-low*, ſays he, *do what he will, can't avoid hanging; he has a hanging look.* By the ſame art, he would prognoſticate a principality to a ſcoundrel.

He was no leſs particular in the choice of his ſtudies; they were gene-rally bent towards exploded chimeras,‡ the *perpetuum mobile*, the circular ſhot,

* Saving faith; a belief that one ſhall certainly be ſaved.
† Election.
‡ The learning of the Preſbyterians.

philoſopher's ſtone, ſilent gun-powder, making chains for fleas, nets for flies, and inſtruments to unravel cobwebs and ſplit hairs.

Thus, I think, I have given a diſtinct account of the methods he practiſed upon *Peg*. Her brother would now and then aſk her, "What a devil doſt "thou ſee in that pragmatical coxcomb "to make thee ſo in love with him? he "is a fit match for a taylor or a ſhoe-"maker's daughter, but not for you, "that are a gentlewoman." "Fancy is "free, (quoth *Peg*:) I'll take my own "way, do you take yours. I do not "care for your flaunting beaus, that "gang with their breaſts open, and their "ſarks over their waiſtcoats? that ac-"coſt me with ſpeeches out of *Sidney's* "*Arcadia*, or the *Academy of Compli-"ments*. *Jack* is a ſober, grave young "man; though he has none of your "ſtudied harangues, his meaning is ſin-"cere: he has a great regard to his fa-"ther's will; and he that ſhews himſelf "a good ſon, will make a good huſ-"band; beſides, I know he has the orig-

inal

"inal deed of conveyance to the For-
"tunate iſlands; the others are coun-
"terfeits." There is nothing ſo obſti-
nate as a young lady in her amours; the more you croſs her, the worſe ſhe is.

CHAP. IV.

How the relations reconciled John *and his ſiſter* Peg, *and what return* Peg *made to* John's *meſſage.**

JOHN BULL, otherwiſe a good-natured man, was very hard-hearted to his ſiſter *Peg*, chiefly from an averſion he had conceived in his infancy. While he flouriſhed, kept a warm houſe, and drove a plentiful trade, poor *Peg* was forced to go hawking and peddling about the ſtreets, ſelling knives, ſciſſars, and ſhoe-buckles; now and then carried a baſket of fiſh to the market; ſewed, ſpun, and knit for a livelihood, till her fingers-ends were ſore, and when ſhe

* The treaty of *Union* between *England* and *Scotland*.

ſhe could not get bread for her family, ſhe was forced to hire them out at journey-work to her neighbours. Yet in theſe her poor circumſtances, ſhe ſtill preſerved the air and mien of a gentlewoman, a certain decent pride, that extorted reſpect from the haughtieſt of her neighbours; when ſhe came into any full aſſembly, ſhe would not yield the *pas* to the beſt of them. If one aſked her, "Are not you related to "*John Bull?*" "Yes, (ſays ſhe) he "has the honour to be my brother." So *Peg*'s affairs went, till all the relations cried out ſhame upon *John* for his barbarous uſage of his own fleſh and blood; that it was an eaſy matter for him to put her in a creditable way of living, not only without hurt but with advantage to himſelf, being ſhe was an induſtrious perſon, and might be ſerviceable to him in his way of buſineſs. "Hang her, jade, (quoth *John*) I can't "endure her, as long as ſhe keeps that "raſcal *Jack*'s company." They told him, the way to reclaim her was to take her into his houſe: that by converſation the childiſh humours of their younger

younger days might be worn out, Theſe arguments were enforced by a certain incident. It happened that *John* was at that time about making his * *will*, and *entailing his eſtate*, the very ſame in which *Nic. Frog* is named executor. Now his ſiſter *Peg*'s name being in the entail, he could not make a thorough ſettlement without her conſent. There was, indeed, a malicious ſtory went about, as if *John*'s laſt wife had fallen in love with *Jack* as he was † eating cuſtard on horſeback; that ſhe perſuaded *John* to take his ſiſter into the houſe, the better to drive on the intrigue with *Jack*, concluding he would follow his miſtreſs *Peg*. All I can infer from this ſtory, is, that when one has got a bad character in the world, people will report and believe any thing of one, true or falſe. But to return to my ſtory; when *Peg* received *John*'s meſſage,

* The ſucceſſion to the crown having been ſettled by act of parliament in *England*, upon the Houſe of *Hanover*, and no ſuch act having paſſed in *Scotland*, then a ſeparate kingdom, it was thought a proper time to compleat the union which had been often attempted, and which was recommended to the *Scots* by king *William* III.

† A Preſbyterian lord mayor of *London*.

meſſage, ſhe huffed and ſtormed like the devil :* "My brother *John* (quoth ſhe) "is grown wondrous kind-hearted all "of a ſudden, but I meikle doubt, "whether it be not mair for their own "conveniency than for my good; he "draws up his writs and his deeds, for-"ſooth, and I muſt ſet my hand to them, "unſight, unſeen. I like the young "man he has ſettled upon well enough, "but I think I ought to have a valuable "conſideration for my conſent. He "wants my poor little farm, becauſe it "makes a nook in his park wall: ye "may e'en tell him, he has mair than he "makes good uſe of; he gangs up and "down drinking, roaring, and quar-"relling, through all the country mar-"kets, making fooliſh bargains in his "cups, which he repents when he is "ſober; like a thriftleſs wretch, ſpend-"ing the goods and gear that his fore-"fathers won with the ſweat of their "brows; light come, light go, he cares "not a farthing. But why ſhould I "ſtand

* The *Scots* expreſſed their fears for the preſbyterian government, and of being burdened with the *Engliſh* national debts.

"ſtand ſurety for his contracts; the "little I have is frec, and I can call it "my awn; hame's hame, let it be never "ſo hamely. I ken him well enough, "he could never abide me, and when "he has his ends, he'll e'en uſe me as "he did before. I am ſure I ſhall be "treated like a poor drudge: I ſhall "be ſet to tend the bairns, dearn the "hoſe, and mend the linen. Then "there's no living with that old carline "his mother; ſhe rails at *Jack*, and "*Jack*'s an honeſter man than any of "her kin; I ſhall be plagued with her "ſpells and her *Pater-noſters*, and ſilly "old-world ceremonies; I mun never "pare my nails on a *Friday*, nor begin "a journey on *Childermas-day*; and I "mun ſtand becking and binging, as I "gang out and into the hall. Tell him "he may e'en gang his get; I'll have "nothing to do with him; I'll ſtay, like "the poor country mouſe, in my awn "habitation." So *Peg* talked; but for all that, by the interpoſition of good friends, and by many a bonny thing that was ſent, and many more that were promiſed *Peg*, the matter was concluded,

ed, and *Peg taken into the houſe* upon certain articles: one of which was, that ſhe might have the freedom of *Jack*'s converſation,* and might take him for better and for worſe, if ſhe pleaſed; provided always, he did not come into the houſe at unſeaſonable hours, and diſturb the reſt of the old woman, *John*'s mother.

CHAP. V.

Of ſome quarrels that happened after Peg *was taken into the family.*†

IT is an old obſervation, that the quarrels of relations are harder to reconcile than any other; injuries from friends fret and gall more, and the memory of them is not ſo eaſily obliterated. This is cunningly repreſented by one of your old ſages, called *Æſop*, in the ſtory of the bird, that was grieved extremely at

* The act of toleration.

† Quarrels about ſome of the articles of Union, particularly the Peerage.

at being wounded with an arrow feathered with his own wing; as alſo of the oak, that let many a heavy groan, when he was cleft with a wedge of his own timber.

There was no man in the world leſs ſubject to rancour than *John Bull*, conſidering how often his good nature had been abuſed; yet I don't know, but he was too apt to hearken to tattling people, that carried tales between him and ſiſter *Peg*, on purpoſe to ſow jealouſies, and ſet them together by the ears. They ſay that there were ſome hardſhips put upon *Peg*, which had been better let alone; but it was the buſineſs of good people to reſtrain the injuries on one ſide, and moderate the reſentments on the other; a good friend acts both parts; the one without the other will not do.

* The purchaſe money of *Peg*'s farm was ill paid; then *Peg* loved a little

* By the xvth article of the treaty of Union, it was agreed that *Scotland* ſhould have an equivalent for ſeveral cuſtoms and exciſes to which ſhe would become liable, and this equivalent was not paid.

good liquor, and the ſervants ſhut up the wine-cellar; but for that *Peg* found a trick, for ſhe made a * falſe key. *Peg*'s ſervants complained that they were debarred from all manner of buſineſs, and never ſuffered to touch the leaſt thing within the houſe; † if they offered to come into the warehouſe, then ſtrait went the yard ſlap over their noddle; if they ventured into the counting-room a fellow would throw an ink-bottle at their head; if they came into the beſt apartment, to ſet any thing there in order, they were ſaluted with a broom; if they meddled with any thing in the kitchen, it was odds but the cook laid them over the pate with a ladle; one that would have got into the ſtables, was met by two raſcals, who fell to work with him with a bruſh and a curry-comb; ſome climbing up into the coach-box, were told, that one of their companions had been there before, that could not drive; then ſlap went the long whip about their ears.

On

* Run wine.

† By the teſt act diſſenters are excluded from places and employments.

On the other hand it was complained, that *Peg*'s ſervants were always aſking for *drink-money; that they had more than their ſhare of the *Chriſtmas-box*: to ſay the truth, *Peg*'s lads buſtled pretty hard for that, for when they were endeavouring to lock it up, they got in their great fiſts, and pulled out handfuls of half-crowns, ſhillings, and ſix-pences. Others in the ſcramble picked up guineas and broad-pieces. But there happened a worſe thing than all this; it was complained that *Peg*'s ſervants had great ſtomachs, and brought ſo many of their friends and acquaintance to the table, that *John*'s family was like to be eat out of houſe and home. Inſtead of regulating this matter as it ought to be, *Peg*'s young men were thruſt away from the table; then there was the devil and all to do; ſpoons, plates, and diſhes flew about the room like mad: and ſir *Roger*, who was now *major domo*, had enough to do to quiet them. *Peg* ſaid, this was contrary to agreement, whereby ſhe was in all things to be treated like a child of the family; then ſhe called

* Endeavoured to get their ſhare of places.

led upon thoſe, that had made her ſuch fair promiſes, and undertook for her brother *John*'s good behaviour, but, alas! to her coſt ſhe found, that they were the firſt and readieſt to do her the injury. *John* at laſt agreed to this regulation; that *Peg*'s * footmen might ſit with his book-keeper, journeymen, and apprentices; and *Peg*'s better ſort of ſervants might ſit with his footmen, if they pleaſed.

Then they began to order plumb-porridge and minced-pies for *Peg*'s dinner: *Peg* told them ſhe had an averſion to that ſort of food; that upon forcing † down a meſs of it ſome years ago, it threw her into a fit, till ſhe brought it up again. Some alledged it was nothing but humour, that the ſame meſs ſhould be ſerved up again for ſupper, and breakfaſt next morning; others would have made uſe of a horn; but the wiſer ſort bid let her alone, and ſhe might take to it of her own accord.

CHAP.

* Articles of Union, whereby they could make a *Scots* commoner (but not a lord) a peer.

† Introducing Epiſcopacy into *Scotland*, by *Charles* I.

CHAP. VI.

The converſation between John Bull *and his wife.*

Mrs. *Bull.* THOUGH our affairs, honey, are in a bad condition, I have a better opinion of them, ſince you ſeemed to be convinced of the ill courſe you have been in, and are reſolved to ſubmit to proper remedies. But when I conſider your immenſe debts, your fooliſh bargains, and the general diſorder of your buſineſs, I have a curioſity to know what fate or chance has brought you into this condition.

J. Bull. I wiſh you would talk of ſome other ſubject; the thoughts of it make me mad; our family muſt have their run.

Mrs. *Bull.* But ſuch a ſtrange thing as this never happened to any of your family before: they have had law-ſuits, but though they ſpent the income, they

never mortgaged the ſtock. Sure you muſt have ſome of the *Norman* or the *Norfolk* blood in you. Prithee give me ſome account of theſe matters.

J. Bull. Who could help it? There lives not ſuch a fellow by bread as that old *Lewis Baboon:* he is the moſt cheating contentious rogue upon the face of the earth. You muſt know, one day, as *Nic. Frog* and I were over a bottle making up an old quarrel, the old fellow would needs have us drink a bottle of his *Champagne*, and ſo one after another, till my friend *Nic.* and I, not being uſed to ſuch heady ſtuff, got bloody drunk. *Lewis* all the while, either by the ſtrength of his brain, or flinching his glaſs, kept himſelf ſober as a judge. "My worthy friends, (quoth *Lewis*,) "henceforth let us live neighbourly, I "am as peaceable and quiet as a lamb, "of my own temper, but it has been "my misfortune to live among quarrel-"ſome neighbours. There is but one "thing can make us fall out, and that "is, the *inheritance of lord* Strutt's *eſ-"tate;* I am content for peace ſake, to "wave

"wave my right, and ſubmit to any ex-
"pedient to prevent a law-ſuit; I think
"an * *equal diviſion* will be the faireſt
"way." *Well moved, old* Lewis, *quoth* Frog; *and I hope my friend* John *here will not be refractory.* At the ſame time he clapped me on the back, and ſlabbered me all over from cheek to cheek, with his great tongue. *Do as you pleaſe, gentlemen*, quoth I; *'tis all one to* John Bull. We agreed to part that night, and next morning to meet at the corner of lord *Strutt*'s park wall with our ſurveying inſtruments, which accordingly we did. Old *Lewis* carried a chain and a ſemicircle; *Nic.* paper, rulers, and a lead pencil; and I followed at ſome diſtance with a long pole. We began firſt with ſurveying the meadow grounds, afterwards we meaſured the corn-fields, cloſe by cloſe; then we proceeded to the wood-lands, the † copper and tin mines. All this while *Nic.* laid down every thing exactly upon paper, calculated the acres and

* A treaty for preſerving the balance of power in *Europe* by a partition of the *Spaniſh* dominions.

† The *Weſt Indies.*

and roods to a great nicety. When we had finiſhed the land, we were going to break into the houſe and gardens to take an inventory of his plate, pictures, and other furniture.

Mrs. *Bull.* What ſaid lord *Strutt* to all this?

J. Bull. As we had almoſt finiſhed our concern, we were accoſted by ſome of lord *Strutt's* ſervants: "Hey day! "What's here? What a devil's the "meaning of all theſe trangrams and "gimcracks, gentlemen? What in the "name of wonder are you going about, "jumping over my maſter's hedges, and "running your lines croſs his grounds? "If you are at any field paſtime, you "might have aſked leave, my maſter is "a civil well-bred perſon as any is."

Mrs. *Bull.* What could you anſwer to this?

J. Bull. Why truly my neighbour *Frog* and I were ſtill hot-headed; we told him his maſter was an old doating puppy,

puppy, that minded nothing of his own buſineſs; that we were ſurveying his eſtate, and ſettling it for him, ſince he would not do it himſelf. Upon this there happened a quarrel, but we being ſtronger than they, ſent them away with a flea in their ear. They went home and told their maſter.* "My lord, (ſaid "they) there are three odd ſort of fel-"lows going about your grounds with "the ſtrangeſt machines, that ever we "beheld in our life: I ſuppoſe they "are going to rob your orchard, fell "your trees, or drive away your cattle: "they told us ſtrange things of ſettling "your eſtate: one is a luſty old fellow, "in a black wig, with a black beard, "without teeth: there's another thick "ſquat fellow, in trunk-hoſe: the third "is a little long-noſed thin man. (I "was then lean, being juſt come out of "a fit of ſickneſs) I ſuppoſe it is fit to "ſend after them, leſt they carry ſome-"thing away."

Mrs.

* This partition of the king of *Spain*'s dominions was made without his conſent or even his knowledge.

Mrs. *Bull.* I fancy this put the old fellow in a rare tweague.

J. Bull. Weak as he was, he called for his long *Toledo*, ſwore and bounced about the room, "'Sdeath! what am I "come to, to be affronted ſo by my "tradeſman? I know the raſcals: my "barber, clothier, and linen-draper diſ-"poſe of my eſtate! bring hither my "blunderbuſs. I'll warrant ye, you "ſhall ſee day-light throught them. "Scoundrels! dogs! the ſcum of the "earth! *Frog*, that was my father's "kitchen-boy, he pretend to meddle with "my eſtate! with my will! Ah poor "*Strutt*, what art thou come to at laſt? "Thou haſt lived too long in the world, "to ſee thy age and infirmity ſo deſpi-"ſed: how will the ghoſts of my noble "anceſtors receive theſe tidings? They "cannot, they muſt not ſleep quietly in "their graves." In ſhort, the old gentleman was carried off in a fainting fit, and after bleeding in both arms hardly recovered.

Mrs. *Bull.* Really this was a very extraordinary

traordinary way of proceeding: I long to hear the reſt of it.

J. Bull. After we had come back to the tavern, and taken t'other bottle of *Champagne*, we quarrelled a little about the diviſion of the eſtate. *Lewis* haulled and pulled the map on one ſide, and *Frog* and I on the other, till we had like to have torn the parchment to pieces. At laſt *Lewis* pulled out a pair of great taylor's ſhears, and clipt a corner for himſelf, which he ſaid was a manor that lay convenient for him, and left *Frog* and me the reſt to diſpoſe of as we pleaſed. We were overjoyed to think *Lewis* was contented with ſo little, not ſmelling what was at the bottom of the plot. There happened indeed an incident, that gave us ſome diſturbance: a cunning fellow, one of my ſervants, two days after, peeping through the key-hole, obſerved that old *Lewis* had ſtole away our part of the map, and ſaw him fiddling and turning the map from one corner to the other, trying to join the two pieces together again: he was muttering ſomething to himſelf, which we did

did not well hear, only theſe words, *'Tis great pity, 'tis great pity!* My ſervant added, that he believed this had ſome ill meaning. I told him he was a coxcomb, always pretending to be wiſer than his companions; *Lewis* and I are good friends, he's an honeſt fellow, and I dare ſay will ſtand to his bargain. The ſequel of the ſtory proved this fellow's ſuſpicion to be too well grounded; for * *Lewis* revealed our whole ſecret to the deceaſed lord *Strutt*, who, in reward to his treachery and revenge to *Frog* and me, ſettled his whole eſtate upon the preſent *Philip Baboon.* Then we underſtood what he meant by piecing the map.

Mrs. *Bull.* And was you ſurprized at this? Had not lord *Strutt* reaſon to be angry? Would you have been contented to have been ſo uſed yourſelf.

J. Bull. Why truly, wife, it was not eaſily reconciled to the common methods;

* It is ſuſpected that the *French* king intended to take the whole, and that he revealed the ſecret to the court of *Spain*, upon which the will was made in favour of his grandſon.

methods; but then it was the fashion to do such things. I have read of your golden age, your silver age, *etc.* one might justly call this the age of *lawyers.* There was hardly a man of substance in all the country, but had a * *counterfeit that pretended to his estate.* As the philosophers say, that there is a duplicate of every terrestrial animal at sea, so it was in this age of the lawyers, there was at least two of every thing; nay, on my conscience, I think there were three † esquire *Hackums* at one time. In short, it was usual for a parcel of fellows to meet, and dispose of the whole estates in the country: *This lies convenient for me*, Tom: *Thou wouldst do more with that*, Dick, *than the old fellow that has it.* So to law they went with the true owners; the lawyers got well by it; every body else was undone. It was a common thing for an honest man, when he came home at night, to find another fellow domineering in his family, hectoring his servants, calling for supper, and pretending to go

* Several Pretenders at that time.
† Kings of *Poland.*

to bed to his wife. In every houſe you might obſerve two *Sofias* quarrelling who was maſter. For my own part, I am ſtill afraid of the ſame treatment, and that I ſhould find ſomebody behind my counter ſelling my broadcloth.

Mrs. *Bull.* There are a ſort of fellows, they call banterers and bamboozlers, that play ſuch tricks; but it ſeems, theſe fellows were in earneſt.

J. Bull. I begin to think, that *juſtice* is a better rule than *conveniency*, for all ſome people make ſo ſtrght on it.

CHAP. VII.

Of the hard ſhifts Mrs. Bull *was put to, to preſerve the manor of* Bullock's Hatch; *with ſir* Roger's *method to keep off importunate duns.**

AS *John Bull* and his wife were talking together, they were ſurprized

* After the diſſolution of the parliament, the ſinking miniſtry

prized with a ſudden knocking at the door: "Thoſe wicked ſcriveners and "lawyers, no doubt," quoth *John*; and ſo it was: ſome aſking for the money he owed, and others warning to prepare for the approaching term. "What a "curſed life do I lead? (quoth *John.*) "Debt is like deadly ſin: for God's "ſake, ſir *Roger*, get me rid of the fel-"lows." "I'll warrant you, (quoth ſir "*Roger*;) leave them to me." And indeed it was pleaſant enough to obſerve ſir *Roger*'s method with theſe importunate duns; his ſincere friendſhip for *John Bull* made him ſubmit to many things for his ſervice, which he would have ſcorned to have done for himſelf. * Sometimes he would ſtand at the door with his long ſtaff to keep off the duns, 'till *John* got out at the back-door

miniſtry endeavoured to ſupport themſelves by propagating a notion, that the publick credit would ſuffer if the lord treaſurer *Godolphin* was removed; the dread of this event produced it: the monied men began to ſell their ſhares in the bank; the governor, deputy governor, and two directors applied to the Queen to prevent the change; the alarm became general, and all the publick funds gradually ſunk. Perhaps by *Bullock's Hatch*, the author meant the crown lands: See page 143.

* Manners of the earl of *Oxford.*

door. When the lawyers and tradeſmen brought extravagant bills, ſir *Roger* uſed to bargain beforehand for leave to cut off a quarter of a yard in any part of the bill he pleaſed; he wore a pair of ſciſſars in his pocket for this purpoſe, and would ſnip it off ſo nicely as you cannot imagine. Like a true goldſmith he kept all your holidays; here was not wanting one in his calendar; when ready money was ſcarce, he would ſet them a telling a thouſand pounds in ſixpences, groats, and three-penny pieces. It would have done your heart good to have ſeen him charge through an army of lawyers, attorneys, clerks and tradeſmen; ſometimes with ſword in hand, at other times nuzzling like an eel in the mud. When a fellow ſtuck like a bur, that there was no ſhaking him off, he uſed to be mighty inquiſitive about the health of his uncles and aunts in the country; he could call them all by their names, for he knew every body, and could talk to them in their own way. The extremely impertinent he would ſend away to ſee ſome ſtrange ſight, as the dragon of *Hockley in the Hole*;

Hole; or bid him call the 30th of next *February*. * Now and then you would ſee him in the kitchen, weighing the beef and butter; paying ready money, that the maids might not run a tick at the market, and the butchers, by bribing of them, ſell damaged and light meat. Another time he would ſlip into the cellar, and gauge the caſks. In his leiſure minutes he was poſting his books, and gathering in his debts. Such frugal methods were neceſſary, where money was ſo ſcarce, and duns ſo numerous. All this while *John* kept his credit, could ſhew his head both at *Change* and *Weſtminſter-hall*; no man proteſted his bill, nor refuſed his bond; only the ſharpers and ſcriveners, the lawyers and other clerks pelted ſir *Roger* as he went along. The ſquirters were at it with their kennel water, for they were mad for the loſs of their bubble, and that they could not get him to mortgage the manor of *Bullock's Hatch*. Sir *Roger* ſhook his ears, and nuzzled along well ſatisfied within himſelf, that he was doing

* Some regulations as to the purveyance in the Queen's family.

ing a charitable work in reſcuing an honeſt man from the claws of *harpies* and *blood-ſuckers*. Mrs. *Bull* did all that an affectionate wife, and a good houſewife could do; yet the boundaries of virtues are indiviſible lines; it is impoſſible to march up cloſe to the frontiers of frugality, without entering the territories of parſimony. Your good houſewifes are apt to look into the minuteſt things; * therefore ſome blamed Mrs. *Bull* for new heel-piecing of her ſhoes, grudging a quarter of a pound of *ſoap* and *ſand* to ſcour the rooms; but eſpecially, † that ſhe would not allow her maids and apprentices the benefit of *John Bunyan*, the *London Apprentices*, or the *Seven Champions* in the black letter.

CHAP.

* Too great ſavings in the houſe of commons.
† Reſtraining the liberty of the preſs by act of parliament.

CHAP. VIII.

A continuation of the converſation betwixt John Bull *and his wife.*

Mrs. *Bull.* IT is a moſt ſad life we lead, my dear, to be ſo teazed, paying intereſt for old debts, and ſtill contracting new ones. However, I don't blame you for vindicating your honour, and chaſtiſing old *Lewis*: to curb the inſolent, protect the oppreſſed, recover one's own, and defend what one has, are good effects of the law: the only thing I want to know, is, how you came to make an end of your money, before you finiſhed your ſuit.

J. Bull. I was told by the learned in the law, that my ſuit ſtood upon three firm pillars; *more money for more law: more law for more money*, and *no compoſition*. More money for more law, was plain to a demonſtration, for who can go to law without money? and it was plain, that any man that has money, may have law for it. The third was as evident

evident as the other two; for what compoſition could be made with a rogue, that never kept a word he ſaid?

Mrs. *Bull.* I think you are moſt likely to get out of this labyrinth by the ſecond door, by want of ready money to purchaſe this precious commodity: but you ſeem not only to have bought too much of it, but have paid too dear for what you bought; elſe, how was it poſſible to run ſo much in debt, when at this very time, the yearly income of what is mortgaged to thoſe uſurers, would diſcharge *Hocus*'s bills, and give you your belly-full of law for all your life, without running one ſix-pence in debt? You have been bred up to buſineſs; I ſuppoſe you can cypher: I wonder you never uſe your pen and ink.

J. Bull. Now you urge me too far; prithee, dear wife, hold thy tongue. Suppoſe a young heir, heedleſs, raw, and unexperienced, full of ſpirit and vigour, with a favourite paſſion, in the hands of money ſcriveners: ſuch fellows

lows are like your wire-drawing mills; if they get hold of a man's finger, they will pull in his whole body at laſt, 'till they ſqueeze the heart, blood and guts out of him. * When I wanted money, half a dozen of theſe fellows were always waiting in my antichamber with their ſecurities *ready* drawn. I was tempted with the ready, ſome farm or other went to pot. I received with one hand, and paid it away with the other to lawyers, that like ſo many hell-hounds were ready to devour me. Then the rogues would plead poverty, and ſcarcity of money, which always ended in receiving ninety for the hundred. After they had got poſſeſſion of my beſt rents, they were able to ſupply me with my own money. But what was worſe, when I looked into the ſecurities, there was no clauſe of redemption.

Mrs. *Bull.* No clauſe of redemption ſay you? that's hard.

J. Bull. No great matter, for I cannot

* Methods of preying upon the neceſſities of the government.

not pay them. They had got a worſe trick than that; the ſame man bought and ſold to himſelf, paid the money, and gave the acquittance; the ſame man was butcher and graſier, brewer and butler, cook and poulterer. There is ſomething ſtill worſe than all this; there came twenty bills upon me at once, which I had given money to diſcharge; I was like to be pulled to pieces by brewer, butcher, and baker; even my herb-women dunned me as I went along the ſtreet. (Thanks to my friend ſir *Roger*, elſe I muſt have gone to goal.) When I aſked the meaning of this, I was told, the money went to the lawyers; counſel won't tick, ſir; *Hocus* was urging: my book-keeper ſat ſotting all day, playing at *put* and *all-fours*: in ſhort, by griping uſurers, devouring lawyers, and negligent ſervants, I am brought to this paſs.

Mrs. *Bull.* This was hard uſage! but methinks, the leaſt reflection might have retrieved you.

J. Bull. It is true: yet conſider my

my circumſtances; my honour was engaged, and I did not know how to get out; beſides, I was for five years often drunk, always muddled; they carried me from tavern to tavern, to ale-houſes and brandy-ſhops, and brought me acquainted with ſuch ſtrange dogs! * "There goes the prettieſt fellow in the "world, ſays one, for managing a jury; "make him yours. There's another "can pick you up witneſſes: ſerjeant "ſuch-a-one has a ſilver tongue at the "bar." I believe, in time I ſhould have retained every ſingle perſon within the inns of court. The night after a trial I treated the lawyers, their wives and daughters, with fiddles, hautboys, drums, and trumpets. I was always hot-headed; then they placed me in the middle, the attornies and their clerks dancing about me, whooping, and hollowing, *Long live* John Bull, *the glory and ſupport of the law!*

Mrs. *Bull.* Really, huſband, you went through a very notable courſe.

J. Bull.

* Hiring ſtill more troops.

J. Bull. One of the things, that firſt alarmed me, was * that they ſhewed a ſpite againſt my poor old mother. "Lord, quoth I, what makes you ſo "jealous of a poor, old, innocent gen-"tlewoman, that minds only her pray-"ers, and her practice of piety: ſhe "never meddles in any of your con-"cerns?" "Foh, (ſay they) to ſee a "handſome, briſk, genteel, young fellow, "ſo much governed by a doating old "woman! why don't you go and ſuck "the bubby? Do you conſider ſhe "keeps you out of a good jointure? "She has the beſt of your eſtate ſettled "upon her for a rent-charge: hang her, "old thief, turn her out of doors, ſeize "her land, and let her go to law if ſhe "dares." "Soft and fair, gentlemen, "quoth I; my mother's my mother; "our family are not of an unnatural "temper. Tho' I don't take all her "advice, I won't ſeize her jointure; "long may ſhe enjoy it, good woman; "I don't grudge it her, ſhe allows me "now and then a brace of hundreds "for my law-ſuit; that's pretty fair."

About

* Railing againſt the church.

About this time the old gentlewoman fell ill of an * odd ſort of diſtemper; it began with a coldneſs and numbneſs in her limbs, which by degrees affected the nerves, (I think the phyſicians call them) ſeized the brain, and at laſt ended in a lethargy. It betrayed itſelf at firſt in a ſort of indifference and careleſſneſs in all her actions, coldneſs to her beſt friends, and an averſion to ſtir or go about the common offices of life. She, that was the cleanlieſt creature in the world, never ſhrunk now, if you ſet a cloſe-ſtool under her noſe. She, that would ſometimes rattle off her ſervants pretty ſharply, now, if ſhe ſaw them drink, or heard them talk profanely, never took any notice of it. † Inſtead of her uſual charities to deſerving perſons, ſhe threw away her money upon roaring ſwearing bullies and beggars, that went about the ſtreets. "What is "the matter with the old gentlewoman, "(ſaid every body) ſhe never uſed to

* Careleſſneſs in forms and diſcipline,

† Diſpoſing of ſome preferments to libertine and unprincipled perſons.

"do in this manner?" * At laſt the diſtemper grew more violent, and threw her downright into raving fits; in which ſhe ſhrieked out ſo loud, that ſhe diſturbed the whole neighbourhood. In her fits ſhe called upon one Sir *William*: "†Oh! Sir *William*, thou haſt betrayed "me! killed me! ſtabbed me! ſold "me to the cuckold of *Dover-ſtreet!* "See, ſee, *Clum* with his bloody knife! "ſeize him, ſeize him, ſtop him; Be-"hold the fury with her hiſſing ſnakes? "Where's my ſon *John!* Is he well, is "he well! poor man, I pity him;" and abundance more of ſuch ſtrange ſtuff, that nobody could make any thing of. I knew little of the matter; for when I enquired about her health, the anſwer was, that "ſhe was in a good moderate "way." Phyſicians were ſent for in haſte: ſir *Roger*, with great difficulty, brought *Ratcliff*; *Garth* came upon the firſt meſſage. There were ſeveral others called in; but, as uſual upon ſuch occaſions, they differed ſtrangely at the conſultation.

* The too violent clamours about the danger of the church.

† Sir *William*, a cant name of ſir *Humphrey*'s for Lord Treaſurer *Godolphin*.

conſultation. At laſt they divided into two parties, one ſided with *Garth*, the other with *Ratcliff*. * Dr. *Garth*, "This "caſe ſeems to me to be plainly hyſte-"rical; the old woman is whimſical; "it is a common thing for your old "women to be ſo; I'll pawn my life, "bliſters, with the ſteel diet, will re-"cover her." Others ſuggeſted ſtrong purging, and letting of blood, becauſe ſhe was plethorick. Some went ſo far as to ſay the old woman was mad, and nothing would be better than a little corporal correction. *Ratcliff*, "Gen-"tlemen, you are miſtaken in this caſe; "it is plainly an acute diſtempter, and "ſhe cannot hold out three days, unleſs "ſhe is ſupported with ſtrong cordials." I came into the room with a good deal of concern, and aſked them, what they thought of my mother? "In no man-"ner of danger, I vow to *Gad*, (quoth "*Garth*) the old woman is hyſterical, "fanciful, Sir, I vow to *Gad*." "I "tell you, Sir, (ſays *Ratcliff*,) ſhe can-"not live three days to an end, unleſs "there

* *Garth*, the low-church party. *Ratcliff*, high-church party.

"there is ſome very effectual courſe ta-
"ken with her; ſhe has a malignant fe-
"ver." Then fool, puppy, and block-head were the beſt words they gave. I could hardly reſtrain them from throwing the ink-bottles at one another's heads. I forgot to tell you, that one party of the phyſicians deſired, I would take my ſiſter *Peg* into the houſe to nurſe her, but the old gentlewoman would not hear of that. At laſt one phyſician aſked, if the lady had ever been uſed to take *Laudanum*? Her maid anſwered, not that ſhe knew; but indeed there was a *High German* Liveryman of hers, one **Yan Ptſchirnſooker*, that gave her a ſort of quack-powder. The phyſician deſired to ſee it: "Nay, "(ſays he,) there is *Opium* in this, I "am ſure."

Mrs. *Bull.* I hope you examined a little into this matter.

J. Bull. I did indeed, and diſcovered a great myſtery of iniquity. The witneſſes

* *Yan Ptſchirnſooker*, a biſhop at that time, a great dealer in politicks and phyſick.

neſſes made oath, That they had heard ſome of the **Livery-men* frequently railing at their miſtreſs. "They ſaid, ſhe "was a troubleſome fiddle-faddle old "woman, and ſo ceremonious, that "there was no bearing of her. They "were ſo plagued with bowing and "cringing as they went in and out of "the room, that their backs ached. "She uſed to ſcold at one for his dirty "ſhoes, at another for his greaſy hair, "and not combing his head: that ſhe "was ſo paſſionate and fiery in her tem-"per, that there was no living with "her; ſhe wanted ſomething to ſweet-"en her blood: that they never had a "quiet night's reſt, for getting up in the "morning to early ſacraments; they "wiſhed they could find ſome way or "another to keep the old woman quiet "in her bed." Such diſcourſes were often overheard among the *Livery-men*, while the ſaid *Yan Ptſchirnſooker* had undertook this matter. A maid made affidavit, "That ſhe had ſeen the ſaid "*Yan Ptſchirnſooker*, one of the *Livery-*"*men*, frequently making up of medi-

 "cines,

* The clergy.

"cines, and adminiſtring them to all "the neighbours; that ſhe ſaw him one "morning make up the powder, which "her miſtreſs took; that ſhe had the "curioſity to aſk him, whence he had "the ingredients? They come, ſays he, "from ſeveral parts of de world; dis I "have from *Geneva*, dat from *Rome*, "dis white powder from *Amſterdam*, "and de red from *Edinburgh*: but de "chief ingredient of all comes from "*Turkey*." It was likewiſe proved, that the ſaid *Ptſchirnſooker* had been frequently ſeen at the *Roſe* with *Jack*, who was known to bear an inveterate ſpite to his miſtreſs, which the examinant believes to be the ſame, and ſpoke the following words: "Madam, here is grand "ſecret van de world, my ſweetening "powder, it does temperate de humour, "deſpel the windt, and cure de va-"pour, it lulleth and quieteth the ani-"mal ſpirits, procuring reſt and pleaſ-"ant dreams: it is de infallible receipt "for de ſcurvy, all heats in de bloodt, "and breaking out upon de ſkin: it is "de true blood-ſtancher, ſtopping all "fluxes of de blood: if you do take "dis,

"dis, you will never ail any ding, it "will cure you of all diſeaſes:" and abundance more to this purpoſe, which the examinant does not remember.

John Bull was interrupted in his ſtory by a porter, that brought him a letter from *Nicholas Frog*, which is as follows,

CHAP. IX.

* *A Copy of* Nic. Frog's *letter to* John Bull.

[John Bull *reads.*]

FRIEND JOHN,

"WHAT Schellum is this, that "makes thee jealous of thy old "friend *Nicholas?* Haſt thou forgot "how ſome years ago he took thee out "of the † ſpunging-houſe?" ['*Tis true my friend* Nic. *did ſo, and I thank him; but he made me pay a ſwingeing reckoning.*]

* A letter from the S—s G—l.
† Alluding to the Revolution.

ing.] "Thou beginn'ſt now to repent "thy bargain, that thou waſt ſo fond "of; and, if thou durſt, would'ſt for- "ſwear thy own hand and ſeal. Thou "ſay'ſt, that thou haſt purchaſed me too "great an eſtate already; when, at the "ſame time, thou know'ſt I have only "a mortgage: 'tis true, I have poſſeſ- "ſion, and the tenants own me for maſ- "ter; but has not eſquire *South* the "equity of redemption?" [*No doubt, and will redeem it very ſpeedily; poor* Nic. *has only poſſeſſion, eleven points of the law.*] "As for the * turnpikes, I "have ſet up, they are for other peo- "ple, not for my friend *John*; I have "ordered my ſervant conſtantly to at- "tend, to let thy carriages through "without paying any thing; only I "hope thou will not come too heavy "laden to ſpoil my ways. Certainly, I "have juſt cauſe of offence againſt "thee, my friend, for ſuppoſing it poſſi- "ble that thou and I ſhould ever quar- "rel: what hounds-foot is it that puts "theſe whims in thy head? Ten thou- "ſand laſt of devils haul me, if I don't "love

* The *Dutch* prohibition of trade.

"love thee as I love my life." [*No queſtion, as the devil loves holy-water!*]
"Does not thy own hand and ſeal oblige
"thee to purchaſe for me, till I ſay it
"is enough? Are not theſe words
"plain? I ſay it is not enough. Doſt
"thou think, thy friend *Nicholas Frog*
"made a child's bargain? Mark the
"words of thy contract, *Totâ pecuniâ*,
"with all thy money." [*Very well! I have purchaſed with my own money, my children's, and my grand-children's money, is not that enough? Well,* totâ pecuniâ *let it be, for at preſent I have none at all: he would not have me purchaſe with other people's money, ſure; ſince* totâ pecuniâ *is the bargain, I think it is plain, no more money, no more purchaſe.*]
"And whatever the world may ſay,
"*Nicholas Frog* is but a poor man in
"compariſon of the rich, the opulent
"*John Bull*, great clothier of the world.
"I have had many loſſes, ſix of my beſt
"ſheep were drowned, and the water
"has come into my cellar, and ſpoiled
"a pipe of my beſt brandy: it would
"be a more friendly act in thee to carry
"a brief about the country to repair

"the

"the loſſes of thy poor friend. Is it "not evident to all the world, that I "am ſtill hemmed in by *Lewis Baboon*? "Is he not juſt upon my borders?" [*And ſo he will be, if I purchaſe a thouſand acres more, unleſs he get ſomebody betwixt them.*] "I tell thee, friend "*John*, thou haſt flatterers, that per-"ſuade thee that thou art a man of bu-"ſineſs; do not believe them: if thou "would'ſt ſtill leave thy affairs in my "hands, thou ſhould'ſt ſee how hand-"ſomely I would deal by thee. That "ever thou ſhould'ſt be dazzled with "the inchanted iſlands, and mountains "of gold, that old *Lewis* promiſes thee! "'Dſwounds! why doſt thou not lay "out thy money to purchaſe a place at "court, of honeſt *Iſrael*? I tell thee, "thou muſt not ſo much as think of a "compoſition. [*Not think of a compoſition, that's hard indeed; I can't help thinking of it, if I would.*] "Thou "complain'ſt of want of money; let "thy wife and daughters burn the gold "lace off their petticoats; ſell thy fat "cattle; retrench but a ſirloin of beef "and a peck-loaf in a week from thy "gormandizing

"gormandizing guts." [*Retrench my beef, a dog! Retrench my beef! then it is plain, the raſcal has an ill deſign upon me, he would ſtarve me.*] "Mortgage "thy manor of *Bullock's Hatch*, or "pawn thy crop for ten years." [*A rogue! part with my country-ſeat, my patrimony, all that I have left in the world, I'll ſee him hanged firſt.*] "Why haſt "thou changed thy attorney? Can any "man manage thy cauſe better for "thee?" [*Very pleaſant! becauſe a man has a good attorney, he muſt never make an end of his law-ſuit.*] "Ah, "*John! John!* I wiſh thou knew'ſt "thy own mind; thou art as fickle as "the wind. I tell thee, thou hadſt bet-"ter let this compoſition alone, or leave "it to thy

Loving friend,

NIC. FROG.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

*Of ſome extraordinary * things that paſſed at the* Salutation *tavern, in the conference between* Bull, Frog, *eſquire* South, *and* Lewis Baboon.

FROG had given his word, that he would meet the above-mentioned company at the *Salutation* to talk of this agreement. Though he durſt not directly break his appointment, he made many a ſhuffling excuſe; one time he pretended to be ſeized with the gout in his right knee; then he got a great cold that had ſtruck him deaf of one ear; afterwards two of his coach-horſes fell ſick, and he durſt not go by water, for fear of catching an ague. *John* would take no excuſe, but hurried him away: "Come *Nic.* (ſays he) let's go and hear "at leaſt what this old fellow has to "propoſe! I hope there's no hurt in "that." "Be it ſo, (quoth *Nic,*) but if "I

* The treaty of *Utrecht*: the difficulty to get them to meet. When met, the *Dutch* would not ſpeak their ſentiments, nor the *French* deliver in their propoſals. The houſe of *Auſtria* talked very high.

"I catch any harm, woe be to you; "my wife and children will curſe you "as long as they live." When they were come to the *Salutation*, *John* concluded all was ſure then, and that he ſhould be troubled no more with law affairs; he thought every body as plain and ſincere as he was. "Well, neigh- "bours, (quoth he) let's now make an "end of all matters, and live peaceably "together for the time to come: if ev- "ery body is as well inclined as I, we "ſhall quickly come to the upſhot of "our affair." And ſo pointing to *Frog* to ſay ſomething, to the great ſurprize of all the company, *Frog* was ſeized with a dead palſy in the tongue. *John* began to aſk him ſome plain queſtions, and whooped and hallooed in his ear. "Let's come to the point, *Nic.*! Who "wouldeſt thou have to be lord *Strutt*? "Wouldeſt thou have *Philip Baboon*?" *Nic.* ſhook his head, and ſaid nothing. "Wilt thou then have eſquire *South* to "be lord *Strutt*?" *Nic.* ſhook his head a ſecond time. "Then who the devil "wilt thou have? ſay ſomething or "another." *Nic.* opened his mouth,

and pointed to his tongue, and cried, "A, a, a, a!" which was as much as to ſay, he could not ſpeak. *John Bull.* "Shall I ſerve *Philip Baboon* with "broad-cloth, and accept of the com-"poſition that he offers, with the liberty "of his parks and fiſh-ponds?" Then *Nic.* roared like a bull, "O, o, o, o!" *John Bull.* "If thou wilt not let me "have them, wilt thou take them thy-"ſelf?" Then *Nic.* grinned, cackled, and laughed, till he was like to kill him-ſelf, and ſeemed to be ſo pleaſed, that he fell a friſking and dancing about the room. *John Bull.* "Shall I leave all "this matter to thy management, *Nic.* "and go about my buſineſs?" Then *Nic* got up a glaſs, and drank to *John*, ſhaking him by the hand, till he had like to have ſhook his ſhoulder out of joint. *John Bull.* "I underſtand thee "*Nic.* but I ſhall make thee ſpeak be-"fore I go." Then *Nic.* put his finger in his cheek, and made it cry *Buck*; which was as much as to ſay, I care not a farthing for thee. *John Bull.* "I "have done *Nic.* if thou wilt not ſpeak, "I'll make my own terms with old

"*Lewis*

"*Lewis* here." Then *Nic.* lolled out his tongue, and turned up his bum to him; which was as much as to ſay, Kiſs ------

John perceiving that *Frog* would not ſpeak, turns to old *Lewis*; "Since we "cannot make this obſtinate fellow "ſpeak, *Lewis*, pray condeſcend a little "to his humour, and ſet down thy "meaning upon paper, that he may an-"ſwer it in another ſcrap."

"I am infinitely ſorry (quoth *Lewis*) "that it happens ſo unfortunately; for "playing a little at cudgels t'other "day, a fellow has given me ſuch a rap "over the right-arm, that I am quite "lame: I have loſt the uſe of my fore-"finger and my thumb, ſo that I can-"not hold my pen."

J. Bull. That's all one, let me write for you.

Lewis. But I have a misfortune, that I cannot read any body's hand but my own.

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Try what you can do with your left-hand.

Lewis. That's impoſſible; it will make ſuch a ſcrawl, that it will not be legible.

As they were talking of this matter, in came *eſquire *South*, all dreſſed up in feathers and ribbons, ſtark ſtaring mad, brandiſhing his ſword, as if he would have cut off their heads; crying, "Room, room, boys, for the grand "eſquire of the world! the flower of "eſquires! What! covered in my "preſence? I'll cruſh your ſouls, and "crack you like lice!" With that he had like to have ſtruck *John Bull*'s hat into the fire; but *John*, who was pretty ſtrong-fiſted, gave him ſuch a ſqueeze as made his eyes water. He went on ſtill in his mad pranks; "When I am "lord of the univerſe, the ſun ſhall "proſtrate and adore me! Thou, *Frog*, "ſhalt be my bailiff; *Lewis* my tay-"lor;

*The Archduke was now become Emperor of *Germany*; being unanimouſly elected upon the death of *Joſeph* the firſt.

"lor; and thou, *John Bull*, ſhalt be "my fool!"

All this while, *Frog* laughed in his ſleeve, gave the eſquire t'other noggin of brandy, and clapped him on the back, which made him ten times madder.

Poor *John* ſtood in amaze, talking thus to himſelf: "Well, *John*, thou art "got into rare company! One has a "dumb devil, t'other a mad devil, and "the third a ſpirit of infirmity. An "honeſt man has a fine time on't among "ſuch rogues. What art thou aſking "of them, after all? Some mighty "boon one would think! only to ſit "quietly at thy own fire-ſide. 'Sdeath, "what have I to do with ſuch fellows! "*John Bull*, after all his loſſes and "croſſes, can live better without them, "than they can without him. Would "to God I lived a thouſand leagues off "them! but the devil's in't, *John Bull* is in, and *John Bull* muſt get out as "well as he can."

As he was talking to himſelf, he ob-

ſerved *Frog* and old *Lewis* edging * towards one another to whiſper; ſo that *John* was forced to ſit with his arms a-kimbo, to keep them aſunder.

Some people adviſed *John* to blood *Frog* under the tongue, or take away his bread and butter, which would certainly make him ſpeak; to give eſquire *South* hellebore; as for *Lewis*, ſome were for emollient poultices, others for opening his arm with an inciſion-knife.

† CHAP. XI.

The apprehending, examination and impriſonment of Jack *for ſuſpicion of poiſoning.*

THE attentive reader cannot have forgot that the ſtory of *Yan Ptſchirnſooker's*

* Some attempts of ſecret negociation between the *French* and the *Dutch*.

† The receiving the holy ſacrament as adminiſtered by the church of *England* once at leaſt in every year, having been made a neceſſary qualification for places of truſt and profit,

Ptſchirnſooker's powder was interrupted by a meſſage from *Frog*. I have a natural compaſſion for curioſity, being much troubled with the diſtemper myſelf; therefore to gratify that uneaſy itching ſenſation in my reader, I have procured the following account of that matter.

Yan Ptſchirnſooker came off (as rogues uſually do upon ſuch occaſions) by peaching his partner; and being extremely forward to bring him to the gallows. * *Jack* was accuſed as the contriver of all the roguery. And indeed it happened unfortunately for the poor fellow,

profit, many of the Diſſenters came to the altar merely for this purpoſe. A bill to prevent this practice had been three times brought into the houſe and rejected, under the title of *A bill to prevent occaſional conformity*. But the Earl of *Nottingham* having brought it in a fourth time under another name, and with the addition of ſuch clauſes as were ſaid to enlarge the toleration, and to be a further ſecurity to the Proteſtant ſucceſſion, the Whigs, whoſe cauſe the Earl then appeared to eſpouſe, were perſuaded to concur; ſome, becauſe they were indeed willing that the bill ſhould paſs, and others, becauſe they believed the Earl of *Oxford* would at laſt procure it to be thrown out. The four following chapters contain the hiſtory of this tranſaction.

* All the misfortunes of the church charged upon the Preſbyterian party.

fellow, that he was known to bear a moſt inveterate ſpite againſt the old gentlewoman; and conſequently, that never any ill accident happened to her, but he was ſuſpected to be at the bottom of it. If ſhe pricked her finger, *Jack*, to be ſure, laid the pin in the way; if ſome noiſe in the ſtreet diſturbed her reſt, who could it be but *Jack* in ſome of his nocturnal rambles? If a ſervant ran away, *Jack* had debauched him: every idle tittle-tattle that went about, *Jack* was always ſuſpected for the author of it: however, all was nothing to this laſt affair of the temperating, moderating powder.

The hue and cry went after *Jack* to apprehend him dead or alive, wherever he could be found. The conſtables looked out for him in all his uſual haunts; but to no purpoſe. Where d'ye think they found him at laſt? Even ſmoaking his pipe very quietly at his brother *Martin*'s; from whence he was carried with a vaſt mob at his heels before the worſhipful Mr. juſtice *Overdo*. Several of his neighbours made oath, That

* That of late the priſoner had been obſerved to lead a very diſſolute life, renouncing even his uſual hypocriſy, and pretences to ſobriety: that he frequented taverns and eating-houſes, and had been often guilty of drunkenneſs and gluttony at my lord-mayor's table: that he had been ſeen in the company of lewd women: that he had transferred his uſual care of the engroſſed copy of his father's will, to bank bills, orders for tallies, and debentures:† theſe he now affirmed, with more literal truth, to be ‡*meat, drink, and cloth, the philoſopher's ſtone, and the univerſal medicine*: that he was ſo far from ſhewing his cuſtomary reverence to the *will*, that he kept company with thoſe that called his father a cheating rogue, and his will a forgery:§ that he not only ſat quietly and heard his father railed at, but often chimed in with the diſcourſe, and hugged the authors as his boſom friends: *that*

* The manners of the Diſſenters changed from their former ſtrictneſs.

† Dealing much in ſtock-jobbing.

‡ Tale of a Tub.

§ Herding with Deiſts and Atheiſts.

* *that inſtead of aſking for blows at the corners of the ſtreets*, he now beſtowed them as plentifully as he begged them before. In ſhort, that he was grown a mere rake; and had nothing left in him of old *Jack*, except his ſpite to *John Bull*'s mother.

Another witneſs made oath, That *Jack* had been overheard bragging of a † trick he had found out to manage the *old formal jade*, as he uſed to call her. "Damn this numb-ſkull of mine, (quoth "he,) that I could not light on it ſoon-"er. As long as I go in this ragged, "tattered coat, I am ſo well known, "that I am hunted away from the old "woman's door by every barking cur "about the houſe; they bid me defi-"ance. There's no doing miſchief as "an open enemy; I muſt find ſome "way or other of getting within doors, "and then I ſhall have better opportu-"nities of playing my pranks, beſides "the benefit of good keeping."

Two

* Tale of a Tub.

† Getting into places and church preferments by occaſional conformity.

* Two witneſſes ſwore, That ſeveral years ago, there came to their miſtreſs's door a young fellow in a tattered coat, that went by the name of *Timothy Trim*, whom they did in their conſcience believe to be the very priſoner, reſembling him in ſhape, ſtature, and the features of his countenance: that the ſaid *Timothy Trim* being taken into the family, clapped their miſtreſs's livery over his own tattered coat: that the ſaid *Timothy* was extremely officious about their miſtreſs's perſon, endeavouring by flattery and tale-bearing to ſet her againſt the reſt of the ſervants: nobody was ſo ready to fetch any thing that was wanted, to reach what was dropped: that he uſed to ſhove and elbow his fellow-ſervants to get near his miſtreſs, eſpecially when money was a paying or receiving; then he was never out of the way: that he was extremely diligent about every body's buſineſs but his own: that the ſaid *Timothy*, while he was in the family, uſed to be playing roguiſh tricks; when his miſtreſs's back was

* Betraying the intereſts of the church, when got into preferments.

was turned, he would loll out his tongue, make mouths, and laugh at her, walking behind her like *Harlequin*, ridiculing her motions and geſtures; but if his miſtreſs looked about, he put on a grave, demure countenance, as if he had been in a fit of devotion: that he uſed often to trip up ſtairs ſo ſmoothly, that you could not hear him tread, and put all things out of order: that he would pinch the children and ſervants, when he met them in the dark, ſo hard, that he left the print of his fore-finger and his thumb in black and blue, and then ſlink into a corner, as if nobody had done it: out of the ſame malicious deſign, he uſed to lay chairs and joint-ſtools in their way, that they might break their noſes by falling over them: the more young and unexperienced, he uſed to teach to talk ſaucily and call names: during his ſtay in the family, there was much plate miſſing; being catched with a couple of ſilver ſpoons in his pocket, with their handles wrenched off, he ſaid, he was only going to carry them to the goldſmith's to be mended: that the ſaid *Timothy* was hated

ted by all the honeſt ſervants for his ill-conditioned, ſplenetick tricks, but eſpecially for his ſlanderous tongue; traducing them to their miſtreſs, as drunkards, thieves, and whore-maſters: that the ſaid *Timothy* by lying ſtories uſed to ſet all the family together by the ears, taking delight to make them fight and quarrel; * particularly one day ſitting at table, he ſpoke words to this effect: "I am of opinion, (quoth he) that little "ſhort fellows, ſuch as we are, have "better hearts, and could beat the tall "fellows; I wiſh it came to a fair tri-"al; I believe theſe long fellows, as "ſightly as they are, ſhould find their "jackets well thwacked."

A parcel of tall fellows, who thought themſelves affronted by the diſcourſe, took up the quarrel, and to't they went, the tall men and the low men, which continues ſtill a faction in the family to the great diſorder of our miſtreſs's affairs: the ſaid *Timothy* carried this frolick ſo far, that he propoſed to his miſ-

O treſs,

* The original of the diſtinction in the names of *Low-churchmen* and *High-churchmen*.

treſs, that ſhe ſhould entertain no ſervant, that was above four feet ſeven inches high; and for that purpoſe had prepared a gage, by which they were to be meaſured. The good old gentlewoman was not ſo ſimple, as to go into his project; ſhe began to ſmell a rat. "This *Trim*, (quoth ſhe) is an odd ſort "of a fellow; methinks he makes a "ſtrange figure with that ragged, tatter-"ed coat, appearing under his livery; "can't he go ſpruce and clean, like the "reſt of the ſervants? the fellow has a "roguiſh leer with him, which I don't "like by any means; beſides, he has "ſuch a twang in his diſcourſe, and an "ungraceful way of ſpeaking through "the noſe, that one can hardly under-"ſtand him; I wiſh the fellow be not "tainted with ſome bad diſeaſe." The witneſſes farther made oath, that the ſaid *Timothy* lay out a-nights, and went abroad often at unſeaſonable hours; and it was credibly reported, he did buſineſs in another family: that he pretended to have a ſqueamiſh ſtomach, and could not eat at table with the reſt of the ſervants, though this was but a

pretence

pretence to provide ſome nice bit for himſelf; that he refuſed to dine upon ſalt-fiſh, only to have an opportunity to eat a calf's head (his favourite diſh) in private; that for all his tender ſtomach, when he was got by himſelf, he could devour capons, turkeys, and ſirloins of beef, like a cormorant.

Two other witneſſes gave the following evidence: That in his officious attendance upon his miſtreſs, he had tried to ſlip a powder into her drink; and that he was once catched endeavouring to ſtifle her with a pillow as ſhe was aſleep: that he and *Ptſchirnſooker* were often in cloſe conference, and that they uſed to drink together at the *Roſe*, where it ſeems he was well enough known by his true name of *Jack*.

The priſoner had little to ſay in his defence; he endeavoured to prove himſelf *Alibi*; ſo that the trial turned upon this ſingle queſtion, whether the ſaid *Timothy Trim* and *Jack* were the ſame perſon; which was proved by ſuch plain tokens and particularly by a mole

mole under the left pap, that there was no withſtanding the evidence; therefore the worſhipful Mr. Juſtice committed him, in order to his trial.

CHAP. XII.

How Jack's *friends came to viſit him in priſon, and what advice they gave him.*

JACK hitherto had paſſed in the world for a poor, ſimple, well-meaning, half-witted, crack-brained fellow. People were ſtrangely ſurprized to find him in ſuch a roguery; that he ſhould diſguiſe himſelf under a falſe name, hire himſelf out for a ſervant to an old gentlewoman, only for an opportunity to poiſon her. They ſaid, that it was more generous to profeſs open enmity, than under a profound diſſimulation to be guilty of ſuch a ſcandalous breach of truſt, and of the ſacred rights of hoſpitality. In ſhort, the action was univerſally condemned by his beſt friends; they

they told him in plain terms, that this was come as a judgment upon him for his looſe life, his gluttony, drunkenneſs, and avarice, for laying aſide his father's *will* in an old mouldy trunk, and turning ſtock-jobber, news-monger, and buſy-body, meddling with other people's affairs, ſhaking off his old ſerious friends, and keeping company with buffoons and pick-pockets, his father's ſworn enemies: that he had beſt throw himſelf upon the mercy of the court; repent, and change his manners. To ſay truth, *Jack* heard theſe diſcourſes with ſome compunction; however, he reſolved to try what his new acquaintance would do for him: they ſent * *Habbakkuk Slyboots*, who delivered him the following meſſage, as the peremptory commands of his truſty companions.

Habbukkuk. Dear *Jack*, I am ſorry for thy misfortune: matters have not been carried on with due ſecrecy; however we muſt make the beſt of a bad

 bargain;

* *Habbakkuk Slyboots*, a certain great man who perſuaded the Diſſenters to conſent to the bill againſt *occaſional conformity*, as being for their intereſt.

bargain: thou art in the utmoſt jeopardy, that's certain; hang, draw, and quarter, are the gentleſt things they talk of. However, thy faithful friends, ever watchful for thy ſecurity, bid me tell thee, that they have one infallible expedient left to ſave thy life: thou muſt know, we have got into ſome underſtanding with the enemy, by the means of *Don Diego:* he aſſures us there is no mercy for thee, and that there is only one way left to eſcape; it is indeed ſomewhat out of the common road; however, be aſſured, it is the reſult of moſt mature deliberation.

Jack. Prithee tell me quickly, for my heart is ſunk down into the very bottom of my belly.

Hab. It is the unanimous opinion of your friends, that you * *make as if you hanged yourſelf;* they will give it out that you are quite dead, and convey your body out of priſon in a bier; and *John Bull,* being buſied with his lawſuit,

* Conſent to the bill againſt *occaſional conformity.*

ſuit, will not enquire further into the matter.

Jack. How d'ye mean, make as if I hanged myſelf?

Hab. Nay, you muſt really hang yourſelf up, in a true genuine rope, that there may appear no trick in it, and and leave the reſt to your friends.

Jack. Truly this is a matter of ſome concern; and my friends, I hope, won't take it ill, if I enquire a little into the means by which they intend to deliver me: a rope and a nooſe are no jeſting matters!

Hab. Why ſo miſtruſtful? haſt thou ever found us falſe to thee? I tell thee, there is one ready to cut thee down.

Jack. May I preſume to aſk who it is, that is entruſted with ſo important an office?

Hab. Is there no end of thy *hows* and thy *whys? That's a ſecret.*

Jack.

Jack. A ſecret, perhaps, that I may be ſafely truſted with, for I am not like to tell it again. I tell you plainly, it is no ſtrange thing for a man, before he hangs himſelf up, to enquire who is to cut him down.

Hab. Thou ſuſpicious creature! if thou muſt needs know it, I tell thee it is * ſir *Roger*: he has been in tears ever ſince thy misfortune. *Don Diego* and we have laid it ſo, that he is to be in the next room, and before the rope is well about thy neck, reſt ſatisfied, he will break in and cut thee down: fear not, old boy; we'll do it, I'll warrant thee.

Jack. So I muſt hang myſelf up, upon hopes ſir *Roger* will cut me down, and all this upon the credit of *Don Diego*: a fine ſtratagem indeed to ſave my life, that depends upon hanging, *Don Diego*, and ſir *Roger!*

Hab. I tell thee there is a *myſtery* in all

* It was given out that the Earl of *Oxford* would oppoſe the occaſional bill, and ſo loſe his credit with the Tories; and the Diſſenters did believe he would not ſuffer it to paſs.

all this, my friend, a piece of profound *policy*; if thou kneweſt what good this will do to the *common cauſe*, thy heart would leap for joy: I am ſure thou wouldſt not delay the experiment one moment.

Jack. This is to the tune of *All for the better*. What's your cauſe to me, when I am hanged?

Hab. Refractory mortal! If thou wilt not truſt thy friends, take what follows; know aſſuredly, before next full moon, that thou wilt be hung up in chains, or thy quarters perching upon the moſt conſpicuous places of the kingdom. Nay, I don't believe they will be contented with hanging; they talk of empaling, or breaking on the wheel; and thou chuſeſt that, before a gentle ſuſpending of thyſelf for one minute. Hanging is not ſo painful a thing as thou imagineſt. I have ſpoke with ſeveral, that have undergone it; they all agree it is no manner of uneaſineſs: be ſure thou take good notice of the ſymptoms, the relation will be curious. It

is

is but a kick or two with thy heels, and a wry mouth or ſo: ſir *Roger* will be with thee in the twinkling of an eye.

Jack. But what if ſir *Roger* ſhould not come; will my friends be there to ſuccour me?

Hab. Doubt it not; I will provide every thing againſt to-morrow morning; do thou keep thy own ſecret; ſay nothing: I tell thee, it is abſolutely neceſſary for the common good, that thou ſhouldſt go through this operation.

CHAP. XIII.

How Jack *hanged himſelf up by the perſuaſion of his friends, who broke their words, and left his neck in the nooſe.*

JACK was a profeſſed enemy to *implicit faith*, and yet I dare ſay it was never more ſtrongly exerted, nor more baſely abuſed, than upon this occaſion. He

He was now with his old friends, in the ſtate of a poor diſbanded officer after a peace, or rather a wounded ſoldier after a battle; like an old favourite of a cunning miniſter after the job is over; or a decayed beauty to a cloyed lover in queſt of new game; or like a hundred ſuch things, that one ſees every day. There were new intrigues, new views, new projects on foot; * *Jack*'s life was the purchaſe of *Diego*'s friendſhip, much good may it do them. The intereſt of *Hocus* and ſir *William Crawley*, which was now more at heart, made this operation upon poor *Jack* abſolutely neceſſary. You may eaſily gueſs, that his reſt that night was but ſmall, and much diſturbed; however, the remaining part of his time, he did not employ (as his cuſtom was formerly) in prayer, meditation, or ſinging a double verſe of a pſalm; but amuſed himſelf with diſpoſing of his bank ſtock. Many a doubt, many a qualm, overſpreaded his clouded imagination: "Muſt I then, (quoth "he)

* The Earl of *Nottingham* made the concurrence of the Whigs to bring in and carry this bill one of the conditions of his engaging in their cauſe.

" he) hang up my own perſonal, natural,
" individual ſelf, with theſe two hands!
" *Durus Sermo!* What if I ſhould be
" cut down, as my friends tell me?
" There is ſomething infamous in the
" very attempt; the world will con-
" clude, I had a guilty conſcience. Is
" it poſſible, that good man, ſir *Roger*,
" can have ſo much pity upon an un-
" fortunate ſcoundrel, that has perſecu-
" ted him ſo many years? No, it can-
" not be; I don't love favours that
" paſs through *Don Diego*'s hands. On
" the other ſide, my blood chills about
" my heart at the thought of theſe
" rogues, with their bloody hands grab-
" bling in my guts, and pulling out my
" very entrails: hang it, for once I'll
" truſt my friends." So *Jack* reſolv-
ed; but he had done more wiſely to have put himſelf upon the trial of his country, and made his defence in form; many things happen between the cup and the lip; witneſſes might have been bribed, juries managed, or proſecution ſtopped. But ſo it was, *Jack* for this time had a ſufficient ſtock of implicit faith,

faith, which led him to his ruin, as the ſequel of the ſtory ſhews.

And now the fatal day was come, in which he was to try this hanging experiment. His friends did not fail him at the appointed hour to ſee it put in practice. *Habbakkuk* brought him a ſmooth, ſtrong, tough rope, made of many a ply of wholeſome *Scandinavian* hemp, compactly twiſted together, with a nooſe that ſlipt as glib as a bird-catcher's gin. *Jack* ſhrunk and grew pale at firſt ſight of it; he handled it, meaſured it, ſtretched it, fixed it againſt the iron bar of the window to try its ſtrength; but no familiarity could reconcile him to it. He found fault with the length, the thickneſs, and the twiſt; nay, the very colour did not pleaſe him. "Will nothing "leſs than hanging ſerve, (quoth *Jack*) "won't my enemies take bail for my "good behaviour? Will they accept "of a fine, or be ſatisfied with the pil-"lory and impriſonment, a good round "whipping, or burning in the cheek?"

Hab. Nothing but your blood will

appeaſe their rage; make haſte, elſe we ſhall be diſcovered. There's nothing like ſurprizing the rogues: how they will be diſappointed, when they hear that thou haſt prevented their revenge, and hanged thine own ſelf?

Jack. That's true; but what if I ſhould do it in effigies? Is there never an old Pope or Pretender to hang up in my ſtead? we are not ſo unlike, but it may paſs.

Hab. That can never be put upon ſir *Roger*.

Jack. Are you ſure he is in the next room? Have you provided a very ſharp knife, in caſe of the worſt?

Hab. Doſt thou take me for a common liar? be ſatisfied, no damage can happen to your perſon; your friends will take care of that.

Jack. Mayn't I quilt my rope? It galls my neck ſtrangely: beſides, I don't like this running knot, it holds too tight; I may be ſtifled all of a ſudden.

Hab.

Hab. Thou haſt ſo many *ifs* and *ands*; prithee diſpatch; it might have been over before this time.

Jack. But now I think on't, I would fain ſettle ſome affairs, for fear of the worſt: have a little patience.

Hab. There's no having patience, thou art ſuch a faintling, ſilly creature.

Jack. O thou moſt deteſtable, abominable *paſſive obedience!* did I ever imagine, I ſhould become thy votary in ſo pregnant an inſtance! How will my brother *Martin* laugh at this ſtory, to ſee himſelf outdone in his own calling? He has taken the doctrine, and left me the practice.

No ſooner had he uttered theſe words, but like a man of true courage, he tied the fatal cord to the beam, fitted the nooſe, and mounted upon the bottom of a tub, the inſide of which he had often graced in his proſperous days. This footſtool *Habbakkuk* kicked away, and left poor *Jack* ſwinging, like the pendulum

lum of *Paul*'s clock. The fatal nooſe performed its office, and with the moſt ſtrict ligature ſqueezed the blood into his face, till it aſſumed a purple dye. While the poor man heaved from the very bottom of his belly for breath, *Habakkuk* walked with great deliberation into both the upper and lower room to acquaint his friends, who received the news with great temper, and with jeers and ſcoffs inſtead of pity. "*Jack* has "hanged himſelf, (quoth they) let us go "and ſee how the poor rogue ſwings." Then they called ſir *Roger*. "Sir "*Roger*, (quoth *Habakkuk*) *Jack* has "hanged himſelf, make haſte and cut "him down." Sir *Roger* turned firſt one ear, and then t'other, not underſtanding what he ſaid.

Hab. I tell you, *Jack* has hanged himſelf up.

Sir *Roger*. Who's hanged?

Hab. Jack.

Sir *Roger*. I thought this had not been hanging day.

Hab.

Hab. But the poor fellow has hanged himſelf.

Sir *Roger.* Then let him hang. I don't wonder at it, the fellow has been mad theſe twenty years.----With this he ſlunk away.

Then *Jack*'s friends begun to hunch and puſh one another; "Why don't "you go, and cut the poor fellow "down?" "Why don't you?" "And "why don't you?" "Not I," quoth one; "Not I," quoth another; "Not "I, (quoth a third) he may hang 'till "doomſday before I relieve him." Nay, it is credibly reported, that they were ſo far from ſuccouring their poor friend in this his diſmal circumſtance, that *Ptſchirnſooker* and ſeveral of his companions went in and pulled him by the legs, and thumped him on the breaſt. Then they began to rail at him for the very thing, which they had adviſed and juſtified before, *viz.* his getting into the old gentlewoman's family, and putting on her livery. The keeper, who performed the laſt office, coming up, found

Jack ſwinging with no life in him; he took down the body gently, and laid it on a bulk, and brought out the rope to the company. "This, gentlemen, is "the rope that hanged *Jack*; what "muſt be done with it?" Upon which they ordered it to be laid among the curioſities * of *Greſham-College*, and it is called, *Jack's rope* to this very day. However, *Jack* after all had ſome ſmall tokens of life in him, but lies at this time paſt hope of a total recovery, with his head hanging on one ſhoulder, without ſpeech or motion. The coroner's inqueſt ſuppoſing him to be dead, brought him in *Non Compos*.

CHAP. XIV.

The conference between Don Diego *and* John Bull.

DURING the time of the foregoing tranſactions, *Don Diego* was entertaining *John Bull*.

D. Diego.

* Since removed with the Royal Society into *Crane-Court*, in *Fleet-Street*.

D. Diego. I hope, Sir, this day's proceeding will convince you of the ſincerity of your old friend *Diego*, and the treachery of ſir *Roger*.

J. Bull. What's the matter now?

D. Diego. You have been endeavouring, for ſeveral years, to have juſtice done upon that rogue *Jack*; but what through the remiſſneſs of conſtables, juſtices, and packed juries, he has always found the means to eſcape.

J. Bull. What then?

D. Diego. Conſider then, who is your beſt friend; he that would have brought him to condign puniſhment, or he that has ſaved him. By my perſuaſion *Jack* had hanged himſelf, if ſir *Roger* had not cut him down.

J. Bull. Who told you that ſir *Roger* has done ſo?

D. Diego. You ſeem to receive me coldly; methinks my ſervices deſerve a better return.

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Since you value yourſelf upon hanging this poor ſcoundrel, I tell you, when I have any more hanging-work, I'll ſend for thee: I have ſome better employment for ſir *Roger*: In the mean time, I deſire the poor fellow may be looked after. When he firſt came out of the North country into my family, under the pretended name of *Timothy Trim*, the fellow ſeemed to mind his loom and his ſpinning-wheel, 'till ſomebody turned his head; then he grew ſo pragmatical, that he took upon him the government of my whole family: I could never order any thing within or without doors, but he muſt be always giving his counſel, forſooth: nevertheleſs, tell him, I will forgive what is paſt; and if he would mind his buſineſs for the future, and not meddle out of his own ſphere, he will find, that *John Bull* is not of a cruel diſpoſition.

D. Diego. Yet all your ſkilful phyſicians ſay, that nothing can recover your mother, but a piece of *Jack*'s liver boiled in her ſoup.

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Thoſe are quacks: my mother abhors ſuch Cannibals food: ſhe is in perfect health at preſent: I would have given many a good pound to have had her ſo well ſome time ago. * There are indeed two or three troubleſome old nurſes, that, becauſe they believe I am tender-hearted, will never let me have a quiet night's reſt with knocking me up: "Oh, Sir, your "mother is taken extremely ill! ſhe is "fallen into a fainting fit! ſhe has a "great emptineſs, wants ſuſtenance!" This is only to recommend themſelves for their great care: *John Bull*, as ſimple as he is, underſtands a little of a pulſe.

CHAP. XV.

The ſequel of the meeting at the † Salutation.

WHERE I think I left *John Bull*, ſitting between *Nic. Frog* and *Lewis*

* New clamours about the danger of the church.
† At the congreſs of *Utrecht*.

Lewis Baboon, with his arms a-kimbo, in great concern to keep *Lewis* and *Nic.* aſunder. As watchful as he was, *Nic.* found the means now and then to ſteal a whiſper, and by a cleanly conveyance under the table to ſlip a ſhort note into *Lewis*'s hand; which *Lewis* as ſlily put into *John*'s pocket, with a pinch or a jog, to warn him what he was about. *John* had the curioſity to retire into a corner to peruſe theſe * *billet doux* of *Nic*'s; wherein he found, that *Nic.* had uſed great freedoms both with his intereſt and reputation. One contained theſe words: "Dear *Lewis*, Thou ſeeſt "clearly, that this blockhead can never "bring his matters to bear: let thee "and me talk to-night by ourſelves at "the *Roſe*, and I'll give thee ſatisfac-"tion." Another was thus expreſſed; "Friend *Lewis*, Has thy ſenſe quite "forſaken thee, to make *Bull* ſuch of-"fers? Hold faſt, part with nothing, "and I will give thee a better bargain, "I'll warrant thee,"

In

* Some offers of the *Dutch* at that time, in order to get the negotiation into their hands.

In ſome of his billets he told *Lewis*, "That *John Bull* was under his guardianſhip; that the beſt part of his ſervants were at his command; that he "could have *John* gagged and bound "whenever he pleaſed by the people of "his own family." In all theſe epiſtles, blockhead, dunce, aſs, coxcomb, were the beſt epithets he gave poor *John*. In others he threatned, * "That he, "eſquire *South*, and the reſt of the "tradeſman, would lay *Lewis* down "upon his back and beat out his teeth, "if he did not retire immediately, and "break up the meeting."

I fancy I need not tell my reader, that *John* often changed colour as he read, and that his fingers itched to give *Nic.* a good flap on the chops; but he wiſely moderated his cholerick temper. "I ſaved this fellow, (quoth he) from "the gallows, when he ran away from "his laſt maſter,† becauſe I thought he "was harſhly treated; but the rogue "was

* Threatening that the *Allies* would carry on the war, without the help of the *Engliſh*.

† The King of *Spain*, whoſe yoke the *Dutch* threw off with the aſſiſtance of the *Engliſh*.

"was no ſooner ſafe under my protec-
"tion, than he began to lie, pilfer and
"ſteal like the devil.* When I firſt
"ſet him up in a warm houſe, he had
"hardly put up his ſign, when he began
"to debauch my beſt cuſtomers from
"me. † Then it was his conſtant prac-
"tice to rob my fiſh-ponds, not only to
"feed his family, but to trade with the
"fiſh-mongers: I connived at the fel-
"low, till he began to tell me, that they
"were his as much as mine. In my
"manor of ‡‡ *Eaſtcheap*, becauſe it lay
"at ſome diſtance from my conſtant
"inſpection, he broke down my fences,
"robbed my orchards, and beat my ſer-
"vants. When I uſed to reprimand
"him for his tricks, he would talk ſau-
"cily, lye, and brazen it out, as if he
"had done nothing amiſs. Will no-
"thing cure thee of thy pranks, *Nic?*
"(quoth I,) I ſhall be forced ſome time
"or other to chaſtiſe thee. The rogue
"got up his cane, and threatened me,
"and

* Complaints againſt the *Dutch* for encroachment in trade, fiſhery, *Eaſt-Indies*, &c. The war with the *Dutch* on theſe accounts.

† ‡‡ See the note above.

" and was well thwacked for his pains.
" But I think his behaviour at this time
" worſt of all ; after I have almoſt
" drowned myſelf to keep his head
" above water, he would leave me ſtick-
" ing in the mud, truſting to his good-
" neſs to help me out. After I have
" beggared myſelf with his troubleſome
" law-ſuit, with a pox to him, he takes
" it in mighty dudgeon, becauſe I have
" brought him here to end matters ami-
" cably, and becauſe I won't let him
" make me over by deed and indenture
" as his lawful cully ; which to my cer-
" tain knowledge he has attempted ſev-
" eral times. But after all, canſt thou
" gather grapes from thorns? *Nic.* does
" not pretend to be a gentleman ; he is
" a tradeſman, a ſelf-ſeeking wretch ;
" but how cameſt thou to bear all this,
" *John?* The reaſon is plain ; thou
" confereſt the benefits, and he re-
" ceives them ; the firſt produces love,
" and the laſt ingratitude. Ah ! *Nic.*
" *Nic.* thou art a damn'd dog, that's
" certain ; thou knoweſt too well, that
" I will take care of thee ; elſe thou
" wouldeſt not uſe me thus. I won't

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"ſteal like the devil.* When I firſt
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" certain ; thou knoweſt too well, that
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" wouldeſt not uſe me thus. I won't

"give thee up, it is true; but as true "as it is, thou ſhalt not ſell me, ac- "cording to thy laudable cuſtom." While *John* was deep in this ſoliloquy, *Nic.* broke out into the following proteſtation.

GENTLEMEN,

"I believe every body here preſent "will allow me to be a very juſt and "diſintereſted perſon. My friend *John* "*Bull* here is very angry with me, for- "ſooth, becauſe I won't agree to his "fooliſh bargains. Now I declare to "all mankind, I ſhould be ready to ſa- "crifice my own concerns to his quiet; "but the care of his intereſt, and that "of the honeſt **tradeſmen* that are em- "barked with us, keeps me from enter- "ing into this compoſition. What "ſhall become of thoſe poor creatures? "The thoughts of their impending ruin "diſturbs my night's reſt, therefore I "deſire they may ſpeak for themſelves. "If they are willing to give up this af- "fair, I ſhan't make two words of it."

John

* The *Allies*.

John Bull begged him to lay aſide that immoderate concern for him; and withal put him in mind, that the intereſt of thoſe tradeſmen had not ſat quite ſo heavy upon him ſome years ago, on a like occaſion. *Nic.* anſwered little to that, but immediately pulled out a boat-ſwain's whiſtle. Upon the firſt whiff, the *tradeſmen* came jumping into the room, and began to ſurround *Lewis*, like ſo many yelping curs about a great boar; or, to uſe a modeſter ſimile, like duns at a great lord's levee the morning he goes into the country. One pulled him by his ſleeve, another by the ſkirt, a third hallooed in his ear: they began to aſk him for all that had been taken from their forefathers by ſtealth, fraud, force, or lawful purchaſe: ſome aſked for manors, others for acres, that lay convenient for them; that he would pull down his fences, level his ditches: all agreed in one common demand, that he ſhould be purged, ſweated, vomited, and ſtarved, till he came to a ſizeable bulk, like that of his neighbours: one modeſtly aſked him leave to call him brother; *Nic. Frog* demanded two things,

things, to be his porter and his fiſh-monger, to keep the keys of his gates, and furniſh the kitchen. *John*'s ſiſter *Peg* only deſired, that he would let his ſervants ſing pſalms a Sundays. Some deſcended even to the aſking of old cloaths, ſhoes, and boots, broken bottles, tobacco-pipes, and ends of candles.

"Monſieur *Bull*, (quoth *Lewis*,) you "ſeem to be a man of ſome breeding; "for God's ſake uſe your intereſt with "theſe Meſſieurs, that they would ſpeak "but one at once; for if one had a "hundred pair of hands, and as many "tongues, he cannot ſatisfy them all at "this rate." *John* begged they might proceed with ſome method; then they ſtopped all of a ſudden, and would not ſay a word. "If this be your play, "(quoth *John*) that we may not be "like a Quaker's dumb meeting, let us "begin ſome diverſion; What d'ye ye "think of rolly-pooly, or a country-"dance? What if we ſhould have a "match at foot-ball? I am ſure we "ſhall never end matters at this rate."

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

How John Bull *and* Nic. Frog *ſettled their accompts.*

J. Bull. DURING this general ceſſation of talk, what if you and I, *Nic.* ſhould enquire how money matters ſtand between us?

Nic. Frog. With all my heart, I love exact dealing; and let *Hocus* audit; he knows how the money was diſburſed.

J. Bull. I am not much for that at preſent; we'll ſettle it between ourſelves: fair and ſquare, *Nic.* keeps friends together. There have been laid out in this law-ſuit, at one time, 36000 pounds and 40000 crowns: in ſome caſes I, in others you, bear the greateſt proportion.

Nic. Right: I pay three fifths of the greateſt number, and you pay two thirds of the leſſer number: I think this is fair and ſquare as you call it.

J. Bull. Well, go on.

Nic. Two thirds of 36000 pounds are 24000 pounds for your ſhare, and there remains 12000 for mine. Again, of the 40000 crowns I pay 24000, which is three fifths, and you pay only 16000, which is two fifths ; 24000 crowns make 6000 pounds ; and 16000 crowns make 4000 pounds ; 12000 and 6000 make 18000 ; 24000 and 4000 make 28000. So there are 18000 pounds to my ſhare of the expences, and 28000 to yours.

After *Nic.* had bamboozled *John* a while about the 18000 and the 28000, *John* called for counters ; but what with ſlight of hand, and taking from his own ſcore, and adding to *John*'s, *Nic.* brought the balance always on his own ſide.

J. Bull. Nay, good friend *Nic.* though I am not quite ſo nimble in the fingers, I underſtand cyphering as well as you. I will produce you my accompts one by one, fairly writ out of my

my own books: and here I begin with the firſt. You muſt excuſe me, if I don't pronounce the law terms right.

[John *reads.*]

For the *Expences ordinary* of the ſuits, fees to judges, puny judges, lawyers innumerable of all ſorts.

Of *Extraordinaries*, as follows *per* accompt.

To Eſquire *South*'s accompt for *poſt Terminums* - - - - -
To *ditto* for *Non eſt factums* - -
To *ditto* for *Noli proſequi's*, *diſcontinuance*, and *retraxit* - - -
For *Writs of error* - - - -
Suits of *Conditions unperform'd* - -
To *Hocus* for *Dedimus proteſtatem* -
To *ditto* for *a Capias ad computandum*
To *Frog*'s new tenants, *per* accompt to *Hocus*, for *Audita querela's* - -
On the ſaid accompt for *Writs of ejectment* and *diſtringas* - - -
To Eſquire *South*'s quota for a return of a *Non eſt invent.* and *Nulla habet bona* - - - - -

To

To --- for a pardon *in forma pauperis*
To *Jack* for a *Melius inquirendum* upon a *Felo de se* - - - - -
To coach-hire - - - - -
For treats to juries and witneſſes -

John having read over his articles with the reſpective ſums, brought in *Frog* debtor to him upon the balance - - £3382 12 00.

Then *Nic. Frog* pulled his bill out of his pocket and began to read:

Nicholas Frog's account.

Remains to be deducted out of the former account.

Paid by *Nic. Frog*, for his ſhare of the *ordinary Expences* of the ſuit - -
To *Hocus* for entries of a *Reges inconſulto* - - - - -
To *John Bull*'s nephew for a *Venire facias*, the money not yet all laid out - - - - -
The coach-hire for my wife and family, and

and the carriage of my goods during the time of this law-ſuit - -
For the extraordinary expences of feeding my family during this law-ſuit -
To Major *Ab.* - - - -
To Major *Will.* - - - -

And ſumming all up, found due upon the balance by *John Bull* to *Nic. Frog*, - - £09 04 06.

J. Bull. As for your *Venire facias*, I have paid you for one already; in the other I believe you will be non-ſuited. I'll take care of my nephew myſelf. Your *coach-hire* and family charges are moſt unreaſonable deductions; at that rate, I can bring in any man in the world my debtor. But who the devil are theſe two *majors*, that conſume all my money? I find they always run away with the balance in all accompts.

Nic. Frog. Two very honeſt gentlemen, I aſſure you, that have done me ſome ſervice. To tell you plainly, *Major Ab.* denotes thy greater *ability*, and

Major

Major Will. thy greater *willingneſs* to carry on this law-ſuit. It was but reaſonable that thou ſhouldſt pay both for thy *power* and thy *poſitiveneſs*.

J. Bull. I believe, I ſhall have thoſe two honeſt *Majors* diſcount on my ſide in a little time.

Nic. Frog. Why all this higgling with thy friend about ſuch a paltry ſum? Does this become the generoſity of the noble and rich *John Bull?* I wonder thou art not aſhamed. Oh *Hocus! Hocus!* where art thou? It uſed to go another-guiſe manner in thy time. When a poor man has almoſt undone himſelf for thy ſake, thou art for fleecing him, and fleecing him; is that thy conſcience, *John?*

J. Bull. Very pleaſant indeed! It is well known thou retaineſt thy lawyers by the year, ſo a freſh lawyer adds but little to thy expences; * they are thy cuſtomers; I hardly ever ſell them a farthing's worth of any thing: nay, thou haſt

* The money ſpent in *Holland* and *Flanders*.

haſt ſet up an eating-houſe where the whole tribe of them ſpend all they can rap or run. If it were well reckoned, I believe thou getteſt more of my money, than thou ſpendeſt of thy own; however, if thou wilt needs plead poverty, own at leaſt, that thy accompts are falſe.

Nic. Frog. No marry won't I; refer myſelf to theſe honeſt gentlemen; let them judge between us. Let eſquire *South* ſpeak his mind, whether my accompts are not right, and whether we ought not to go on with our law-ſuit.

J. Bull. Conſult the butchers about keeping of *Lent*. Doſt think, that *John Bull* will be tried by * *Piepowders?* I tell you once for all, *John Bull* knows where his ſhoe pinches: none of your eſquires ſhall give him the law, as long as

* Court of *Piepowders (Curia pedis pulverizati)* is a court of record incident to every fair; whereof the ſteward is judge, and the trial is by merchants and traders in the fair. It is ſo called, becauſe it is moſt uſual in the ſummer; and becauſe of the expedition in hearing cauſes, for the matter is to be done, complained of, heard and determined the ſame day, that is, before the duſt goes off the feet of the plaintiffs and defendants.

as he wears this truſty weapon by his ſide, or has an inch of broad-cloth in his ſhop.

Nic. Frog. Why there it is; you will be both judge and party; I am ſorry thou diſcovereſt ſo much of thy head-ſtrong humour before theſe ſtrange gentlemen: I have often told thee it would prove thy ruin ſome time or other: let it never be ſaid, that the famous *John Bull* has departed in ſpite of court.

J. Bull. And will it not reflect as much on thy character, *Nic.* to turn barretter in thy old days; a ſtirrer up of quarrels amongſt thy neighbours? I tell thee, *Nic.* ſome time or other thou wilt repent this.

But *John* ſaw clearly, he ſhould have nothing but wrangling, and that he ſhould have as little ſucceſs in ſettling his accompts, as ending the compoſition. "Since they will needs overload "my ſhoulders, (quoth *John*) I ſhall "throw down the burden with a ſquaſh "amongſt

"amongſt them, take it up who dares; "a man has a fine time of it amongſt a "combination of ſharpers, that vouch- "ſafe for one another's honeſty. *John*, "look to thyſelf; old *Lewis* makes rea- "ſonable offers; when thou haſt ſpent "the ſmall pittance that is left, thou "wilt make a glorious figure, when "thou art brought to live upon *Nic.* "*Frog*, and eſquire *South*'s generoſity "and gratitude: if they uſe thee thus, "when they want thee, what will they "do when thou wanteſt them? I ſay "again, *John*, look to thyſelf."

John wiſely ſtifled his reſentments, and told the company, that in a little time he ſhould give them law, or ſomething better.

All. *Law! law! Sir, by all means. What is twenty-two poor years towards the finiſhing a law-ſuit? For the love of God, more law, Sir!

J. Bull. Prepare your demands; how many years more of law do you want,

* Clamours for continuing the war.

want, that I may order my affairs accordingly? In the mean while, farewel.

CHAP. XVII.

* *How* John Bull *found all his family in an uproar at home.*

NIC. FROG, who thought of nothing but carrying *John* to the market, and there diſpoſing of him as his own proper goods, was mad to find that *John* thought himſelf now of age to look after his own affairs. He reſolved to traverſe this new project, and to make him uneaſy in his own *family*. He had corrupted or deluded moſt of his ſervants into the moſt extravagant conceits in the world; that their maſter was run mad, and wore a dagger in one pocket, and poiſon in the other; that he had ſold his wife and children to *Lewis*, diſinherited his heir, and was going to ſettle his eſtate upon a *pariſh-boy*;

* Clamours about the danger of the ſucceſſion.

boy; that if they did not look after their maſter, he would do ſome very miſchievous thing. When *John* came home, he found a more ſurprizing ſcene than any he had yet met with, and that you will ſay was ſomewhat extraordinary.

He called his cook-maid *Betty* to beſpeak his dinner: *Betty* told him, "That ſhe begged his pardon, ſhe "could not dreſs dinner, till ſhe knew "what he intended to do with his will?" "Why, *Betty*, (quoth *John*) thou art "not run mad, art thou? My will at "preſent, is to have dinner:" "That "may be, (quoth *Betty*) but my con-"ſcience won't allow me to dreſs it, "till I know whether you intend to do "righteous things by your heir." "I "am ſorry for that, *Betty*, (quoth *John*) "I muſt find ſomebody elſe then." Then he called *John* the barber. "Be-"fore I begin, (quoth *John*) I hope "your honour won't be offended, if I "aſk you whether you intend to alter "your will? If you won't give me a "poſitive anſwer, your beard may "grow

" grow down to your middle, for me."
" 'Igad, ſo it ſhall, (quoth *Bull)* for I
" will never truſt my throat in ſuch a
" mad fellow's hands. Where's *Dick*
" the butler ?" " Look ye, (quoth
" *Dick)* I am very willing to ſerve you
" in my calling, d'ye ſee ; but there are
" ſtrange reports, and plain dealing is
" beſt, d'ye ſee ; I muſt be ſatisfied if
" you intend to leave all to your neph-
" ew, and if *Nic. Frog* is ſtill your exe-
" cutor, d'ye ſee ; if you will not ſatisfy
" me as to theſe points, you may drink
" with the ducks." " And ſo I will,
" (quoth *John)* rather than keep a but-
" ler that loves my heir better than
" myſelf." *Hob* the ſhoe-maker, and
Pricket the taylor told him, " They
" would moſt willingly ſerve him in
" their ſeveral ſtations, if he would
" promiſe them never to talk with *Lewis*
" *Baboon*, and let *Nicholas Frog*, linen-
" draper, manage his concerns ; that
" they could neither make ſhoes nor
" cloaths to any, that were not in good
" correſpondence with their worthy
" friend *Nicholas*."

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Call *Andrew* my journeyman. How goes affairs, *Andrew?* I hope the devil has not taken poſſeſſion of thy body too.

Andrew. No, Sir; I only deſire to know what you would do if you were dead?

J. Bull. Juſt as other dead folks do, *Andrew*.----This is amazing! *Aſide.*

Andrew. I mean, if your nephew ſhall inherit your eſtate?

J. Bull. That depends upon himſelf. I ſhall do nothing to hinder him.

Andrew. But will you make it ſure?

J. Bull. Thou meaneſt that I ſhould put him in poſſeſſion, for I can make it no ſurer without that; he has all the law can give him.

Andrew. Indeed poſſeſſion, as you ſay, would make it much ſurer; they ſay, It is eleven points of the law.

John began now to think that they were all enchanted; he enquired about the age of the moon; if *Nic.* had not given them ſome intoxicating *potion*, or if old mother *Jeniſa* was ſtill alive? "No, o'my faith, (quoth *Harry*) I be-"lieve there is no *potion* in the caſe, "but a little *Aurum potabile*. You will "have more of this by and by." He had ſcarce ſpoke the word, when another friend of *John's* accoſted him after the following manner:

"Since thoſe worthy perſons, who "are as much concerned for your "ſafety as I am, have employed me as "their orator, I deſire to know whether "you will have it by way of *Syllogiſm*, "*Enthymem*, *Dilemma*, or *Sorites*."

John now began to be diverted with their extravagance.

J. Bull. Let's have a *Sorites* by all means; though they are all new to me.

Friend. It is evident to all, who are verſed in hiſtory, that there were two

ſiſters

ſiſters that played the whore two thouſand years ago: therefore it plainly follows, that it is not lawful for *John Bull* to have any manner of intercourſe with *Lewis Baboon*: if it is not lawful for *John Bull* to have any manner of intercourſe (correſpondence, if you will, that is much the ſame thing) then *à fortiori*, it is much more unlawful for the ſaid *John* to make over his wife and children to the ſaid *Lewis*: if his wife and children are not to be made over, he is not to wear a dagger and ratſbane in his *pockets*: if he wears a dagger and ratſbane, it muſt be to do miſchief to himſelf, or ſomebody elſe: if he intends to do miſchief, he ought to be under guardians, and there is none ſo fit as myſelf, and ſome other worthy perſons, who have a commiſſion for that purpoſe from *Nic. Frog*, the executor of his will and teſtament.

J. Bull. And this is your *Sorites*, you ſay,——With that he ſnatched a good tough oaken cudgel, and began to brandiſh it; then happy was the man that was firſt at the door; crowding to get

get out they tumbled down ſtairs; and it is credibly reported ſome of them dropped very valuable things in the hurry, which were picked up by others of the family.

"That any of theſe rogues, (quoth "*John*) ſhould imagine, I am not as "much concerned as they about having "my affairs in a ſettled condition, or "that I would wrong my heir for I "know not what! Well *Nic.* I really "cannot but applaud thy diligence; I "muſt own this is really a pretty ſort "of a trick, but it ſhan't do thy buſineſs "for all that."

CHAP. XVIII.

* *How* Lewis Baboon *came to viſit* John Bull, *and what paſſed between them.*

[I THINK it is but ingenuous to acquaint the reader, that this chapter was not wrote by Sir *Humphrey* himſelf, but by another very able *pen* of the univerſity of *Grubſtreet.*]

JOHN had (by ſome good inſtructions given him by ſir *Roger*) got the

* Private negociations about *Dunkirk.*

the better of his cholerick temper, and wrought himſelf up to a great ſteadineſs of mind to purſue his own intereſt through all impediments, that were thrown in the way: he began to leave off ſome of his old acquaintance, his roaring and bullying about the ſtreets; he put on a ſerious air, knit his brows, and, for the time, had made a very conſiderable progreſs in politicks, conſidering that he had been kept a ſtranger to his own affairs. However, he could not help diſcovering ſome remains of his nature, when he happened to meet with a foot-ball, or a match at cricket; for which ſir *Roger* was ſure to take him to taſk. *John* was walking about his room, with folded arms, and a moſt thoughtful countenance: his ſervant brought him word, that one *Lewis Baboon* below wanted to ſpeak with him. *John* had got an impreſſion, that *Lewis* was ſo deadly cunning a man, that he was afraid to venture himſelf alone with him: at laſt he took heart of grace; "Let him come up, (quoth he) it is but "ſticking to my point, and he can "never over-reach me."

Lewis

Lewis Baboon. Monſieur *Bull*, I will frankly acknowledge, that my behaviour to my neighbours has been ſomewhat uncivil, and I believe you will readily grant me, that I have met with uſage accordingly. I was fond of backſword and cudgel-play from my youth, and I now bear in my body many a black and blue gaſh and ſcar, God knows. I had as good a warehouſe, and as fair poſſeſſions, as any of my neighbours, though I ſay it; but a contentious temper, flattering ſervants, and unfortunate ſtars, have brought me into circumſtances that are not unknown to you. Theſe my misfortunes are heightened by domeſtick calamities. That I need not relate. I am a poor battered old fellow, and I would willingly end my days in peace: but alas! I ſee but ſmall hopes of that, for every new circumſtance affords an argument to my enemies to purſue their revenge; formerly I was to be banged, becauſe I was too ſtrong, and now becauſe I am too weak to reſiſt; I am to be brought down when too rich, and oppreſſed when too poor. *Nic. Frog* has uſed me like a

ſcoundrel;

ſcoundrel: you are a gentleman, and I freely put myſelf in your hands to diſpoſe of me as you think fit.

J. Bull. Look you, Maſter *Baboon*, as to your uſage of your neighbours, you had beſt not dwell too much upon that chapter; let it ſuffice at preſent, that you have been met with: you have been rolling a great ſtone up hill all your life, and at laſt it has come tumbling down till it is like to cruſh you to pieces: plain-dealing is beſt. If you have any particular mark, Mr. *Baboon*, whereby one may know when you fib, and when you ſpeak truth, you had beſt tell it me, that one may proceed accordingly; but ſince at preſent I know of none ſuch, it is better that you ſhould truſt me, than that I ſhall truſt you.

L. Baboon. I know of no particular mark of veracity amongſt us tradeſmen, but intereſt; and it is manifeſtly mine not to deceive you at this time; you may ſafely truſt me, I can aſſure you.

J. Bull. The truſt I give is in ſhort this;

this; I muſt have ſomething in hand, before I make the bargain, and the reſt before it is concluded.

L. Baboon. To ſhew you I deal fairly, name your ſomething.

J. Bull. I need not tell thee, old boy; thou canſt gueſs.

L. Baboon. * *Eccleſdown-caſtle*, I'll warrant you, becauſe it has been formerly in your family! Say no more, you ſhall have it.

J. Bull. I ſhall have it to m'own ſelf?

L. Baboon. To thy n'own ſelf.

J. Bull. Every wall, gate, room, and inch of *Eccleſdown-caſtle*, you ſay!

L. Baboon. Juſt ſo.

J. Bull. Every ſingle ſtone of *Eccleſdown-caſtle*, to m'own ſelf, ſpeedily!

L. Baboon.

* *Dunkirk.*

L. Baboon. When you pleaſe; what needs more words?

J. Bull. But tell me, old boy, haſt thou laid aſide all thy *equivocals* and *mentals* in this caſe?

L. Baboon. There's nothing like matter of fact; ſeeing is believing.

J. Bull. Now thou talk'ſt to the purpoſe; let us ſhake hands, old boy. Let me aſk thee one queſtion more; What haſt thou to do to meddle with the affairs of my family? to diſpoſe of my eſtate, old boy?

L. Baboon. Juſt as much as you have to do with the affairs of lord *Strutt*.

J. Bull. Ay, but my trade, my very being was concerned in that.

L. Baboon. And my intereſt was concerned in the other: but let us both drop our pretences; for I believe it is a moot point, whether I am more likely to make a Maſter *Bull*, or you a lord *Strutt*.

J. Bull. Agreed, old boy; but then I muſt have ſecurity, that I ſhall carry my broad-cloth to market, old boy.

L. Baboon. That you ſhall: *Eccleſdown-caſtle! Eccleſdown!* remember that: why would'ſt thou not take it, when it was offered thee ſome years ago?

J. Bull. I would not take it, becauſe they told me thou would not give it me.

L. Baboon. How could monſieur *Bull* be ſo groſsly abuſed by downright nonſenſe? they that adviſed you to refuſe, muſt have believed I intended to give, elſe why would they not make the experiment? but I can tell you more of that matter, than perhaps you know at preſent.

J. Bull. But what ſay'ſt thou as to the eſquire, *Nic. Frog*, and the reſt of the tradeſmen! I muſt take care of them.

L. Baboon. Thou haſt but ſmall obligation

ſigation to *Nic.* to my certain knowledge: he has not uſed me like a gentleman.

J. Bull. *Nic.* indeed is not very nice in your punctilio's of ceremony; he is clowniſh, as a man may ſay: belching and calling of names have been allowed him time out of mind, by preſcription: but however, we are engaged in one common cauſe, and I muſt look after him.

L. Baboon. All matters that relate to him, and the reſt of the plaintiffs in this law-ſuit, I will refer to your juſtice.

CHAP. XIX.

Nic. Frog's *letter to* John Bull; *wherein he endeavours to vindicate all his conduct, with relation to* John Bull *and the law-ſuit.*

NIC. perceived now that his cully had eloped, that *John* intended henceforth

henceforth to deal without a broker; but he was reſolved to leave no ſtone unturned to recover his bubble: amongſt other artifices he wrote a moſt obliging letter, which he ſent him printed in a fair character.

*"DEAR FRIEND,

"WHEN I conſider the late ill "uſage I have met with from "you, I was reflecting what it was that "could provoke you to it; but upon a "narrow inſpection into my conduct, I "can find nothing to reproach myſelf "with, but too partial a concern for "your intereſt. You no ſooner ſet "this compoſition a-foot, but I was "ready to comply, and prevented your "very wiſhes; and the affair might "have been ended before now, had it "not been for the greater concerns of "eſquire *South*, and the other poor "creatures embarked in the ſame com-"mon cauſe, whoſe ſafety touches me "to the quick. You ſeemed a little "jealous, that I had dealt unfairly with "you

*Subſtance of the States' letter.

" you in money-matters, 'till it appeared
" by your own accounts, that there was
" ſomething due to me upon the bal-
" ance. Having nothing to anſwer to
" ſo plain a demonſtration, you began
" to complain, as if I had been familiar
" with your reputation; when it is well
" known, not only I, but the meaneſt
" ſervants in my family, talk of you
" with the utmoſt reſpect. I have al-
" ways, as far as in me lies, exhorted
" your ſervants and tenants to be duti-
" ful; not that I any way meddle in
" your domeſtick affairs, which were
" very unbecoming for me to do. If
" ſome of your ſervants expreſs their
" great concern for you in a manner,
" that is not ſo very polite, you ought
" to impute it to their extraordinary
" zeal, which deſerves a reward rather
" than a reproof. You cannot reproach
" me for want of ſucceſs at the *Saluta-*
" *tion*, ſince I am not maſter of the
" paſſions and intereſts of other folks.
" I have beggared myſelf with this
" law-ſuit, undertaken merely in com-
" plaiſance to you; and if you would
" have had but a little patience, I had

"ſtill greater things in reſerve, that I "intended to have done for you. I "hope, what I have ſaid will prevail "with you to lay aſide your unreaſon-"able jealouſies, and that we may have "no more meetings at the *Salutation*, "ſpending our time and money to no "purpoſe. My concern for your wel-"fare and proſperity almoſt makes me "mad. You may be aſſured I will "continue to be

"Your affectionate

"Friend and ſervant,

NIC. FROG."

John received this with a good deal of *ſang froid*: *tranſeat*, (quoth *John*) *cum cæteris erroribus*. He was now at his eaſe; he ſaw he could now make a very good bargain for himſelf, and a very ſafe one for other folks. "My "ſhirt, (quoth he) is near me, but my "ſkin is nearer: whilſt I take care of "the welfare of other folks no body "can blame me to apply a little balſam "to my own ſores. It's a pretty thing,

"after

"after all, for a man to do his own "buſineſs; a man has ſuch a tender "concern for himſelf, there's nothing "like it. This is ſomething better, I "trow, than for *John Bull* to be ſtand-"ing in the market, like a great dray-"horſe, with *Frog*'s paws upon his head. "——*What will you give me for this* "*beaſt?* Serviteur *Nic. Frog*, you may "kiſs my backſide if you pleaſe. Tho' "*John Bull* had not read your *Ariſ-*"*totles*, *Platos*, and *Machiavels*, he can "ſee as far into a mill-ſtone as another." With that *John* began to chuckle and laugh, till he was like to have burſt his ſides.

CHAP. XX.

† *The diſcourſe that paſſed between* Nic. Frog, *and eſquire* South, *which* John Bull *overheard.*

JOHN thought every minute a year, 'till he got into *Eccleſdown-caſtle*; he

* Negotiations between the Emperor and the *Dutch* for continuing the war, and getting the property of *Flanders.*

he repairs to the *Salutation*, with a deſign to break the matter gently to his partners; before he entered, he overheard *Nic.* and the eſquire in a very pleaſant conference.

Eſq. *South.* Oh the ingratitude and injuſtice of mankind! that *John Bull*, whom I have honoured with my friendſhip and protection ſo long, ſhould flinch at laſt, and pretend that he can diſburſe no more money for me! that the family of the *Souths*, by his ſneaking temper, ſhould be kept out of their own!

Nic. Frog. An't like your worſhip, I am in amaze at it; I think the rogue ſhould be compelled to his duty.

Eſq. *South.* That he ſhould prefer his ſcandalous pelf, the duſt and dregs of the earth, to the proſperity and grandeur of my family.

Nic. Frog. Nay, he is miſtaken there too; for he would quickly lick himſelf whole again by his vails. It's ſtrange he

he ſhould prefer *Philip Baboon*'s cuſtom to eſquire *South*'s.

Eſq. *South.* As you ſay, that my clothier, that is to get ſo much by the purchaſe, ſhould refuſe to put me in poſſeſſion; did you ever know any man's tradeſman ſerve him ſo before?

Nic. Frog. No, indeed, an't pleaſe your worſhip, it is a very unuſual proceeding; and I would not have been guilty of it for the world. If your honour had not a great ſtock of moderation and patience, you would not bear it ſo well as you do.

Eſq. *South.* It is moſt intolerable, that's certain, *Nic.* and I will be revenged.

Nic. Frog. Methinks it is ſtrange, that *Philip Baboon*'s tenants do not all take your honour's part, conſidering how good and gentle a maſter you are.

Eſq. *South.* True, *Nic.* but few are ſenſible of merit in this world; it is a great

great comfort, to have ſo faithful a friend as thyſelf in ſo critical a juncture.

Nic. Frog. If all the world ſhould forſake you, be aſſured *Nic. Frog* never will; let us ſtick to our point, and we'll manage *Bull*, I'll warrant ye.

Eſq. *South.* Let me kiſs thee, dear *Nic.* I have found one honeſt man among a thouſand at laſt.

Nic. Frog. If it were poſſible, your honour has it in your power to wed me ſtill cloſer to your intereſt.

Eſq. *South.* Tell me quickly, dear *Nic.*

Nic. Frog. You know I am your tenant; the difference between my leaſe and an inheritance is ſuch a trifle, as I am ſure you will not grudge your poor friend; that will be an encouragement to go on; beſides it will make *Bull* as mad as the devil: you and I ſhall be able to manage him then to ſome purpoſe.

Eſq.

Esq. *South.* Say no more, it shall be done, *Nic.* to thy heart's content.

John all this while was listening to this comical dialogue, and laughed heartily in his sleeve at the pride and simplicity of the esquire, and the sly roguery of his friend *Nic.* Then of a sudden bolting into the room, he began to tell them, that he believed he had brought *Lewis* to reasonable terms, if they would please to hear them.

Then they all bawl'd out aloud, "No "composition, Long live esquire *South* "and the law!" As *John* was going to proceed, some roared, some stamped with their feet, others stopt their ears with their fingers.

"Nay, gentleman, (quoth *John*) if "you will but stop proceeding for a while, you shall judge yourselves, whether *Lewis*'s propos*a*ls are reasonable.

All. Very fine indeed, stop proceeding, and so lose a term.

J. Bull.

* Propos*a*ls for cessation of arms, and delivery of *Dunkirk*,

J. Bull. Not ſo neither, we have ſomething by way of advance, he will put us in poſſeſſion of his manor and caſtle of *Eccleſdown.*

Nic. Frog. What doſt talk of *us*, thou meaneſt *thyſelf.*

J. Bull. When *Frog* took poſſeſſion of any thing, it was always ſaid to be for *us*, and why may not *John Bull* be *us?* as well as *Nic. Frog* was *us? John Bull* is no more confined to ſingularity than *Nic. Frog*; or, take it ſo, the conſtant doctrine, that thou haſt preached up for many years, was, that Thou and I are One; and why muſt we be ſuppoſed Two in this caſe, that were always One before: it's impoſſible that Thou and I could fall out, *Nic.* we muſt truſt one another; I have truſted thee with a great many things, prithee truſt me with this one trifle.

Nic. Frog. That principle is true in the main, but there is ſome *ſpeciality* in this caſe, that makes it highly inconvenient for *us both.*

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Thoſe are your jealouſies, that the common enemies ſow between us; how often haſt thou warned me of thoſe rogues, *Nic.* that would make us miſtruſtful of one another!

Nic. Frog. This *Eccleſdown-caſtle* is only a bone of contention.

J. Bull. It depends upon you to make it ſo, for my part, I am as quiet as a lamb.

Nic. Frog. But do you conſider the unwholeſomeneſs of the air and ſoil, the expences of reparation and ſervants? I would ſcorn to accept of ſuch a quagmire.

J. Bull. You are a great man, *Nic.* but in my circumſtances, I muſt be e'en content to take it as it is.

Nic. Frog. And you are really ſo ſilly as to believe the old cheating rogue will give it you?

J. Bull. I believe nothing but mat-

ter of fact, I ſtand and fall by that, I am reſolved to put him to it.

Nic. Frog. And ſo relinquiſh the hopefulleſt cauſe in the world, a claim that will certainly in the end make thy fortune for ever!

J. Bull. Wilt thou purchaſe it, *Nic?* thou ſhalt have a lumping penny-worth; nay, rather than we ſhould differ, I'll give thee ſomething to take it off my hands.

Nic. Frog. If thou would'ſt, but moderate that haſty, impatient temper of thine, thou ſhould'ſt quickly ſee a better thing than all that. What ſhould'ſt thou think to find old *Lewis* turned out of his paternal eſtates, and the manſion-houſe of * *Clay-pool?* Would not that do thy heart good, to ſee thy old friend, *Nic. Frog*, Lord of *Claypool?* then thou and thy wife and children ſhould walk in my gardens, buy toys, drink lemonade, and now and then we ſhould have a country dance.

J. Bull.

* *Clay-pool, Paris. Lutetia.*

J. Bull. I love to be plain, I'd as lieve ſee myſelf in *Eccleſdown-caſtle*, as thee in *Claypool*; I tell you again, *Lewis* gives this as a pledge of his ſincerity; if you won't ſtop proceeding to hear him, I will.

CHAP. XXI.

* *The reſt of* Nic's *fetches to keep* John *out of* Eccleſdown-caſtle.

WHEN *Nic.* could not diſſuade *John* by argument, he tried to move his pity; he pretended to be ſick and like to die, that he ſhould leave his wife and children in a ſtarving condition, if *John* did abandon him; that he was hardly able to crawl about the room, far leſs capable to look after ſuch a troubleſome buſineſs as this law-ſuit, and therefore begged that his good friend would not leave him. When he ſaw that *John* was ſtill inexorable, he pulled

* Attempts to hinder the ceſſation, and taking poſſeſſion of *Dunkirk*.

pulled out a caſe knife, with which he uſed to ſnicker-ſnee, and threatened to cut his own throat. Thrice he aimed the knife to his wind-pipe with a moſt determined threatening air. "What "ſignifies life, (quoth he) in this lan-"guiſhing condition? It will be ſome "pleaſure that my friends will revenge "my death upon this barbarous man, "that has been the cauſe of it." All this while *John* looked ſedate and calm, neither offering in the leaſt to ſnatch the knife, nor ſtop his blow, truſting to the tenderneſs *Nic.* had for his own perſon: when he perceived that *John* was immoveable in his purpoſe, he applied himſelf to *Lewis*.

"Art thou, (quoth he) turned bubble "in thy old age, from being a ſharper "in thy youth? What occaſion haſt "thou to give up *Eccleſdown-caſtle* to "*John Bull?* his friendſhip is not "worth a ruſh; give it me, and I'll "make it worth thy while. If thou "hearkeneſt not to my advice, take "what follows; eſquire *South* and I

"will

"will go on with our law ſuit in ſpite "of *John Bull*'s teeth."

L. Baboon. Monſieur *Bull* has uſed me like a gentleman, and I am reſoved to make good my promiſe, and truſt him for the conſequences.

Nic. Frog. Then I tell thee thou art an old doating fool.------With that, *Nic.* bounced up with a ſpring equal to that of one of your nimbleſt tumblers or rope-dancers, and fell foul upon *John Bull*, to ſnatch the * *cudgel he had in his hand*, that he might thwack *Lewis* with it: *John* held it faſt, ſo that there was no wrenching it from him. At laſt 'ſquire *South* buckled too, to aſſiſt his friend *Nic.*: *John* hauled on one ſide, and they two on the other; ſometimes they were like to pull *John* over; then it went all of a ſudden again on *John*'s ſide; ſo they went ſee-ſawing up and down, from one end of the room to the other. Down tumbled the tables, bottles, glaſſes, and tobacco-pipes: the wine and the tobacco were all ſpilt

* The army.

about the room, and the little fellows were almoſt trod under foot, till more of the tradeſman joining with *Nic.* and the 'ſquire, *John* was hardly able to pull againſt them all, yet would he never quit hold of his truſty cudgel; which, by the contrary force of two ſo great powers, * broke ſhort in his hands. *Nic.* ſeized the longer end, and with it began to baſtinado old *Lewis*, who had ſlunk into a corner, waiting the event of this ſquabble. *Nic.* came up to him with an inſolent menacing air, ſo that the old fellow was forced to ſkuttle out of the room, and retire behind a dung-cart. He called to *Nic.* "Thou inſolent jackanapes! Time was when thou "durſt not have uſed me ſo, thou now "takeſt me unprovided, but, old and "infirm as I am, I ſhall find a weapon "by and by to chaſtiſe thy impudence."

When *John Bull* had recovered his breath, he began to parley with *Nic.* "Friend *Nic.* I am glad to find thee ſo "ſtrong after thy great complaints: "really thy motions, *Nic.* are pretty "vigorous

* The ſeparation of the army.

"vigorous for a conſumptive man. As "for thy worldly affairs, *Nic.* if it can "do thee any ſervice, I freely make "over to thee this *profitable law-ſuit*, "and I deſire all theſe gentlemen to "bear witneſs to this my act and deed. "Yours be all the gain, as mine as been "the charges; I have brought it to "bear finely: However, all I have laid "out upon it goes for nothing, thou "ſhalt have it with all its appurtenan-"ces, I aſk nothing but leave to go "home."

Nic. Frog. The counſel are fed, and all things prepared for a trial, thou ſhalt be forced to ſtand the iſſue: it ſhall be pleaded in thy name as well as mine: go home if thou can'ſt, the gates are ſhut, * the turnpikes locked, and the roads barricadoed.

J. Bull. Even theſe very ways, *Nic.* that thou toldeſt me, were as open to me as thyſelf: if I can't paſs with my own equipage, what can I expect for my goods and waggons? I am denied paſſage

* Difficulty of the march of part of the army to *Dunkirk*.

paſſage through thoſe very grounds, that I have purchaſed with my own money; however, I am glad I have made the experiment, it may ſerve me in ſome ſtead.

John Bull was ſo overjoyed that he was going to take poſſeſſion of *Eccleſdown*, that nothing could vex him. "*Nic.* (quoth he) I am juſt a going to "leave thee, caſt a kind look upon me "at parting."

Nic. looked ſour and grum, and would not open his mouth.

J. Bull. "I wiſh thee all the ſucceſs "that thy heart can deſire, and that "theſe honeſt gentlemen of the long "robe may have their belly full of law."

Nic. could ſtand it no longer, but flung out of the room with diſdain, and beckoned the lawyers to follow him.

J. Bull. "Bye, bye, *Nic.* not one "poor ſmile at parting; won't you "ſhake your day-day, *Nic.* bye *Nic.*" With that *John* marched out of the common road croſs the country to take poſſeſſion of *Eccleſdown*.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXII.

Of the great joy that John *expreſſed when he got poſſeſſion of* * Eccleſdown.

WHEN *John* had got into his caſtle, he ſeemed like *Ulyſſes* upon his plank after he had been well ſouſed in ſalt-water; who (as *Homer* ſays) was as glad as a judge going to ſit down to dinner, after hearing a long cauſe upon the bench. I dare ſay, *John Bull*'s joy was equal to either of the two; he ſkipped from room to room; ran up ſtairs and down ſtairs, from the kitchen to the garrets, and from the garrets to the kitchen; he peeped into every cranny; ſometimes he admired the beauty of the architecture, and the vaſt ſolidity of the maſon's work; at other times he commended the ſymmetry and proportion of the rooms. He walked about the gardens; he bathed himſelf in the canal, ſwimming, diving, and beating the liquid element, like a milk-white ſwan. The hall reſounded with the ſprightly violin,

* *Dunkirk.*

violin, and the martial hautboy. The family tript it about and capered, like *hail-ſtones bounding from a marble floor.* Wine, ale, and *October* flew about as plentifully as kennel-water; then a frolick took *John* in the head to call up *Nic. Frog's penſioners*, that had been ſo mutinous in his family.

J. Bull. Are you glad to ſee your maſter in *Eccleſdown-caſtle?*

All. Yes, indeed, Sir,

J. Bull. Extremely glad?

All. Extremely glad, Sir.

J. Bull. Swear to me that you are ſo.

Then they began to damn and ſink their ſouls to the loweſt pit of hell, if any perſon in the world rejoiced more than they did.

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J. Bull. Now hang me if I don't believe you are a parcel of perjured raſcals; however, take this bumper of *October* to your maſter's health.

Then

Then *John* got upon the battlements, and looking over, he called to *Nic. Frog*:

"How d'ye do, *Nic*? D'ye ſee "where I am, *Nic*? I hope the *cauſe* "goes on ſwimmingly, *Nic*. When "doſt thou intend to go to *Clay-pool*, "*Nic*? Wilt thou buy there ſome high "heads of the neweſt cut for my daugh-"ters? How comeſt thou to go with "thy arm tied up? Has old *Lewis* "given thee a rap over thy fingers'-"ends? Thy weapon was a good one, "when I wielded it, but the butt-end "remains in my hands. I am ſo buſy "in packing up my goods, that I have "no time to talk with thee any longer. "It would do thy heart good to ſee "what waggon-loads I am preparing "for market. If thou wanteſt any "good office of mine, for all that has "happened, I will uſe thee well, *Nic*. "Bye *Nic*."

FINIS.

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